



Annual Report

2023

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Acronyms

AI	Artificial Intelligence
CEOBS	Conflict and Environment Observatory
CoP28	Conference of Parties 28 (Climate Change)
ECSP	Environmental Change and Security Project
ELI	Environmental Law Institute
EnPAx	Environmental Peacebuilding Association
ILC	International Law Commission (UN)
IOM	International Organisation for Migration (UN)
IUCN-WCEL	International Union for the Conservation of Nature World Commission on Environmental Law
MENA	Middle East and North Africa
MOOC	Massive Open Online Course
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
UN	United Nations
UN-CCRD	UN Convention on Conserving River Deltas
UNEP	UN Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNMAS	UN Mine Action Service
USIP	US Institute for Peace

President's Note

2023 was an interesting year for environmental peacebuilding.

Developments highlighted the importance of environmental peacebuilding. The ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine has showcased the environmental impacts of conflict, as well as environmental challenges in rebuilding. New conflicts in Sudan and Gaza-Israel, as well as ongoing conflicts in Yemen, Myanmar, and the Central African Republic, highlight the fact that although the specifics may vary that war has devastating impacts on the water, air, land, and other resources upon which people and biodiversity depend.

In this context, 2023 has seen some innovations in how we approach the environmental consequences of war. First, there is growing attention to the environmental impacts at the outset, with real-time monitoring of the impacts. This has entailed a combination of remote sensing, artificial intelligence (AI), and groundtruthing. Second, with the Register of Damages for Ukraine advancing, there is a new mechanism to support accountability efforts.

For me, perhaps the most striking development in 2023 was the sense that environmental peacebuilding has gained critical momentum. When we started the Environmental Peacebuilding Update ten years ago, almost no one was using the term. Researchers and practitioners were working at the intersection of environment, conflict, and peace, but there was no dedicated space for them. Fast forward ten years (including five years of activities of the Environmental Peacebuilding Association), and there is a robust and growing peer-reviewed and gray literature on environmental peacebuilding. In October, the Association celebrated the first issue of *Environment and Security* – the only peer-reviewed journal in the field.

It is exciting to observe the growing number of organizations institutionalizing environmental peacebuilding. Other professional associations – including the Alliance for Peacebuilding, the International Water Resources Association, and International Association for Impact Association – have established interest groups, held webinars and other events, and produced publications related to environmental peacebuilding. A growing number of foundations and bilateral funders are supporting environmental peacebuilding programming. As a result, consulting firms have been building up their environmental peacebuilding practices.

After years of working to raise awareness regarding the promise and importance of environmental peacebuilding, it is thrilling to see the uptake!

2024 promises to be a big year. We will convene the Third International Conference on Environmental Peacebuilding with the Grotius Center for International Legal Studies at Leiden University, in The Hague, Netherlands, on June 19-21, 2023. There will be a full day of pre-conference events on June 18, and we are adding a virtual day on June 12 to expand and diversify the people who are able to engage in the conference. The journal *Environment and*

Security will publish four issues this year, including its first special issue in March. There are a number of exciting initiatives that the Board is developing (more news in due course). And the Board and Secretariat continue to evolve their functions to improve the delivery of EnPAx programs.

The Gaza-Israel conflict has generated a lively discussion within the Board (and more broadly) regarding how the Association engages with specific conflicts, how we can support our members on the ground, and what is our particular value added. We are consulting with members in the region to identify specific ways that EnPAx can support them and their work. While this is an ongoing discussion, there are a few things that are worth emphasizing. Fundamentally, the Association strives to provide a safe space for all to come together to share, learn, and collaborate on issues at the intersection of environment, conflict, and peace. We are a diverse Association with a wide range of members representing different institutions, geographies, and beliefs. We value that diversity. We also share a deeply held belief in the inextricable linkages between the environment and peace. And a commitment to one another. These are our values. This is what makes the Association special.

Thank you, all, for your support, engagement, and commitment. I look forward to another amazing year working with you. And I hope to see you in The Hague!

Carl Bruch
President, Environmental Peacebuilding Association

Status of the Association

The Environmental Peacebuilding Association was incorporated in Washington, D.C., and formally launched April 2018. It is certified as a non-profit professional organization (in the parlance of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code, a 501(c)6)).

Board of Directors

The Environmental Peacebuilding Association® (also known as EnPAx®) is guided by a Board comprising leading practitioners and researchers working at the intersection of environment, conflict, and peace. Each Board member is active in Association activities, with a dedicated portfolio of responsibilities. Board members serve three-year terms, which are staggered to ensure stability.

The Board of Directors in 2023 included:



Carl Bruch
President



Larry Swatuk
Vice President



Lauren Risi
Vice-President



Päivi Lujala
Treasurer



Ken Conca
Director



Alec Crawford
Director



Janet Edmond
Director



Julia Gorricho
Director



Silja Halle
Director



Tobias Ide
Director



Shanna McClain
Director



Juliane Schillinger
Director
(Young Professionals)



Paula Gutierrez
Martinez
Director (Latin America
& Caribbean)



Sarah Njeri
Director (Africa)



Asim Zia
Director (Asia & Pacific)

Membership

As of December 2023, the Association has 400 individual members from 70 countries on 6 continents, and 27 institutional members. The membership composition is 87% professional and 13% student. By the end of 2023, the Association had established twelve Interest Groups (on Africa; Data and Technologies; Climate Change, Disasters, and Resilience; Education; Forests; Gender; Law; Middle East and North Africa (MENA); Monitoring & Evaluation; Transitional Justice; Water; and Young Professionals), and they were undertaking a wide range of activities.

Secretariat

The Environmental Law Institute (ELI) serves as the 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.

Secretariat staff includes:

- Joel Young, Environmental Peacebuilding Coordinator
- Tori Rickman, Environmental Peacebuilding Coordinator
- Buket Altincelep, Environmental Peacebuilding Coordinator

- Pauline Mahe, Interest Group Administrator
- Sarah Xu, Membership Administrator
- Leela Yadav, Interest Group Administrator
- Julie Yoon, Gender Administrator

- Elizabeth Hessami, Visiting Attorney
- Tracy Stein, Visiting Attorney
- Tristana Giunta, Visiting Attorney
- Milen Yishak, Visiting Researcher
- Carrie Hanks, Visiting Researcher
- Nilisha Patel, Visiting Researcher
- Major Stevens, Intern
- Sarah Shahabi, Legal Intern
- Aianna Siembab, Intern
- Sophia Rockwell, Intern
- Diego Toledo Bugarini, Intern
- Eneas Xavier de Oliveira Junior, Visiting Attorney
- Rachel Stromsta, Intern

Accreditation

During 2023, the Board completed and published Annual Reports for 2018, 2019, and 2020, which were used to file for accreditation for United Nations events. In 2023, EnPAX submitted applications for UN Environment Programme (UNEP) accreditation which was accepted on April 4, 2023. The application for the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) accreditation is in process. EnPAX submitted its biennial report to Washington, DC on March 22, 2023 to remain in good standing. Many thanks to Loretta Reinersmann, with support from Brooklyn Hildebrandt.

Financial Summary

Following is the income statement and balance sheet for the Association through December 31, 2023.

Balance Sheet

	<u>Dec 31, 23</u>	<u>Dec 31, 22</u>	<u>\$ Change</u>	<u>% Change</u>
ASSETS				
Current Assets				
Checking/Savings				
10000 · Eagle Bank	44,817.95	37,449.02	7,368.93	19.68%
10010 · Eagle Receiving Account	1,970.34	1,889.84	80.50	4.26%
10200 · PayPal	<u>10,926.23</u>	<u>1,437.71</u>	<u>9,488.52</u>	<u>659.98%</u>
Total Checking/Savings	<u>57,714.52</u>	<u>40,776.57</u>	<u>16,937.95</u>	<u>41.54%</u>
Other Current Assets				
12500 · Transwise	<u>41.63</u>	<u>41.63</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.0%</u>
Total Other Current Assets	<u>41.63</u>	<u>41.63</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.0%</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>57,756.15</u>	<u>40,818.20</u>	<u>16,937.95</u>	<u>41.5%</u>
Other Assets				
13000 · Prepaid Expense	<u>0.00</u>	<u>389.37</u>	<u>-389.37</u>	<u>-100.0%</u>
Total Other Assets	<u>0.00</u>	<u>389.37</u>	<u>-389.37</u>	<u>-100.0%</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>57,756.15</u>	<u>41,207.57</u>	<u>16,548.58</u>	<u>40.16%</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY				
Liabilities				
Current Liabilities				
Accounts Payable				
20000 · Accounts Payable	<u>2,904.53</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>2,904.53</u>	<u>100.0%</u>
Total Accounts Payable	<u>2,904.53</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>2,904.53</u>	<u>100.0%</u>
Other Current Liabilities				
27000 · Deferred Revenue-Conference	<u>6,860.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>6,860.00</u>	<u>100.0%</u>
Total Other Current Liabilities	<u>6,860.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>6,860.00</u>	<u>100.0%</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>9,764.53</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>9,764.53</u>	<u>100.0%</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>9,764.53</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>9,764.53</u>	<u>100.0%</u>
Equity				
32000 · Unrestricted Net Assets	41,207.57	18,032.85	23,174.72	128.51%
Net Income	<u>6,784.05</u>	<u>23,174.72</u>	<u>16,390.67</u>	<u>-70.73%</u>
Total Equity	<u>47,991.62</u>	<u>41,207.57</u>	<u>6,784.05</u>	<u>16.46%</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>57,756.15</u>	<u>41,207.57</u>	<u>16,548.58</u>	<u>40.16%</u>

Income Statement

	Jan - Dec 23	Jan - Dec 22	\$ Change	% Change
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
43400 • Direct Public Support				
43450 • Individ, Business Contributions	509.50	5,553.75	-5,044.25	-90.83%
Total 43400 • Direct Public Support	509.50	5,553.75	-5,044.25	-90.83%
47200 • Member Income - Dues				
47230 • Professional Membership	13,938.88	14,804.38	-865.50	-5.85%
47235 • Student/Retired Dues	2,141.75	2,275.00	-133.25	-5.86%
47240 • Institutional Member	11,772.50	7,691.25	4,081.25	53.06%
47200 • Member Income - Dues - Other	435.00	0.00	435.00	100.0%
Total 47200 • Member Income - Dues	28,288.13	24,770.63	3,517.50	14.2%
48000 • Conference Income				
48300 • Conference Sponsor	0.00	15,800.00	15,800.00	-100.0%
Total 48000 • Conference Income	0.00	15,800.00	15,800.00	-100.0%
Total Income	28,797.63	46,124.38	17,326.75	-37.57%
Gross Profit	28,797.63	46,124.38	17,326.75	-37.57%
Expense				
60900 • Business Expenses				
60920 • Business Registration Fees	80.00	0.00	80.00	100.0%
Total 60900 • Business Expenses	80.00	0.00	80.00	100.0%
62100 • Contract Services				
62110 • Administrative Services	1,007.43	3,710.82	-2,703.39	-72.85%
62120 • Program Services	12,969.19	6,270.52	6,698.67	106.83%
62150 • Web Contract	4,858.97	3,000.00	1,858.97	61.97%
Total 62100 • Contract Services	18,835.59	12,981.34	5,854.25	45.1%
65000 • Operations				
65010 • Books, Subscriptions, Reference	240.37	0.00	240.37	100.0%
65040 • Supplies	411.01	0.00	411.01	100.0%
65060 • PayPal/Bank Fees	1,296.61	1,193.24	103.37	8.66%
Total 65000 • Operations	1,947.99	1,193.24	754.75	63.25%
68300 • Travel and Meetings				
68310 • Conference, Convention, Meeting	1,150.00	8,685.84	-7,535.84	-86.76%
68320 • Travel	0.00	89.24	-89.24	-100.0%
Total 68300 • Travel and Meetings	1,150.00	8,775.08	-7,625.08	-86.9%
Total Expense	22,013.58	22,949.66	-936.08	-4.08%
Net Ordinary Income	6,784.05	23,174.72	16,390.67	-70.73%
Net Income	6,784.05	23,174.72	16,390.67	-70.73%

EnPax® benefits greatly from a growing number of institutions for their support in developing and maintaining the Association. EnPax® is grateful to the following institutions for their in-kind and financial support:



Activities of the Association

Throughout 2023, 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
 - Expanding and maintaining an affiliated Knowledge Platform on Gender, Natural Resources, and Peace (in collaboration with the UN Joint Programme on Women, Natural Resources and Peace)
 - Starting to develop micro-sites to address specific aspects of environmental peacebuilding, including those related monitoring and evaluation (M&E), and frontier technologies
- **Building capacity and awareness**
 - Delivering a massive open online course (MOOC) on Environmental Security and Sustaining Peace in a self-paced format
 - Planning for the Third International Conference on Environmental Peacebuilding (in The Hague, The Netherlands) and delivering the Path to The Hague events

- Convening other webinars and other events, including the Al Moumin Award and Distinguished Lecture (mostly remote due to COVID-19)
- **Strengthening relationships between scholars, practitioners, and decisionmakers**
 - Creating new Interest Groups
 - Launching a Membership Directory
 - Developing profiles of members
 - Conducting outreach on social media

These activities are summarized below.

Environmental Peacebuilding Knowledge Platform

The Environmental Peacebuilding Knowledge Platform (www.environmentalpeacebuilding.org/), the leading global platform on issues related to natural resources, conflict, and peacebuilding, continues to grow. This year, we added 607 Library items, 45 Announcements, 160 Events, 313 Jobs, 515 International News articles, and 191 Blogs & Opinion pieces. At the end of 2023, we have 6,200 Library items and more than 8,300 International News articles. In 2023, the Association launched a dedicated [microsite](#) on [Palestine and Israel](#), even as we continued to maintain and expand other subsites, including on [monitoring and evaluation](#), [gender](#), and [data and technologies](#), among others.

The Environmental Peacebuilding Community of Practice added 181 members this year. The Community is now over 4,300 people strong, with members from more than 150 countries.

Environmental Peacebuilding Update

This year EnPAx celebrated ten years of publishing the *Environmental Peacebuilding Update*, the biweekly e-newsletter highlighting recent developments relating to natural resources, conflict, and peace, with links to new publications, international news, upcoming conferences and events, and job openings. According to consultations with members of the Environmental Peacebuilding Community of Practice and of EnPAx, the audience consistently highlights the value of the Update and the website. We are deeply indebted to our editor, Joel Young, and the large team of volunteers who collect, code, and post materials, and then create the Update every two weeks. Under the leadership of Julie Yoon, with guidance from Silja Halle and Marisa Ensor, we have also continued our monthly [Newsletter on Gender, Natural Resources, Climate, and Peace](#).

Events and Webinars

The Association held many virtual webinars, consultations, and skills-building events. By the end of the year, EnPAX had held 36 events. In the process, the Association adopted a number of measures to facilitate dialogue and networking to improve communications and networking. Please see Annex 1 for the list of events.

Al-Moumin Award

The 2023 Al-Moumin Award for Thought Leadership in Environmental Peacebuilding was co-awarded to the Conflict and Environment Observatory (CEOBS) and the Conflict & Environment Team at PAX for their ongoing leadership in monitoring, quantifying, and redressing the environmental impacts of war. These two organizations are respected and trusted leaders creating and disseminating knowledge about the environmental impacts of political violence and, in particular, building a data-driven evidence base quantifiably documenting the intersections between conflict, ecosystems, and communities.

Conflicts in Yemen, Iraq, and Colombia continued to have devastating impacts on both ecosystems and human communities, and the conflict in Ukraine has increased global attention to resource drivers and environmental consequences of armed violence. Meanwhile, climate change is decreasing biodiversity and increasing human migration, with spillover effects on resource availability and environmental tensions. For the past decades, CEOBS and PAX have been leading the way in helping the international community better understand and act on the interactions between the environment and conflict.

CEOBS challenges the idea of the environment as a 'silent victim of armed conflict' by highlighting ecological and humanitarian consequences, 'speaking for' habitats and environmental concerns on the global stage. PAX works to document the environmental impact of new and ongoing conflicts, and to build better responses in order to reduce threats to public health and environmental risks for civilians.

Both of these organizations demonstrate the value and strength of working with multi-sector partnerships, including international organizations, civil society, and universities as well as local communities in collecting, monitoring, and publicizing data. The teams also develop tools for data collection and sharing, and monitor law and policy around these themes. Their overarching goals are to ensure that the environmental consequences of armed conflicts and military activities are properly documented and addressed, and that affected communities are assisted.

The work of CEOBS and PAX is visionary from a thought leadership perspective for their use of GIS and other contemporary scientific methods to collect, analyze, and communicate data. By quantifiably measuring and making known ecosystem impacts such as pollution rates, greenhouse gas emissions, and species population, these organizations advance the case for global attention to environmental peacebuilding. Their work directly supports and informs science-based policy around these themes.

Path to The Hague and the Third Environmental Peacebuilding Conference

The Third International Conference on Environmental Peacebuilding is scheduled to be held from June 19-21, 2024, hosted by the Grotius Center for International Legal Studies at Leiden University at its campus in The Hague, Netherlands. In preparation, the Conference organizing committee determined the five featured themes of environmental peacebuilding which include:

- Climate Change
- Water
- Peace, Justice, Accountability
- Natural Resources and Conservation and
- Data and Digital Technologies.

Organizing Committee members include Carl Bruch, Daniëlla Dam-de Jong, Christopher Huggins, Munini Mutuku, Lauren Risi, and Erika Weinthal.

Scientific Committee members include Tegan Blaine, Tom Cavanagh, Ayman Cherkaoui, Geoff Dabelko, Suleiman Halasah, Silja Halle, Tracy Hart, Liliana Jauregui, Patricia Kameri-Mbote, Hector Camilo Morales Munoz, Alberto Pallechi, Stavros Pantazopolous, Lena Salame, Mirali Shukla, Carsten Stahn, Louise van Schaik, Catherine Wong, and Wim Zwijenburg.

The Path to The Hague series of events propelled the conversation around the Conference and generated excitement around the selected themes. These events were held in a variety of formats, including in-person, virtual or hybrid. Please see Annex 1 which includes summaries of these events which were held in 2023:

- May 11, 2023: Water: A Driver for Peace and Conflict
- May 24, 2023: Extended Dialogue on Forests, Livelihoods and Peace: The Role of the Donor
- July 05, 2023: Webinar on Accountability for Conflict-Related Environmental Harm
- July 12, 2023: Extended Dialogue on Forests, Livelihoods and Peace: Gender
- September 13, 2023: Extended Dialogue on Forests, Livelihoods and Peace: Mediating Forest Conflicts
- September 20, 2023: Book Launch for the “Research Handbook on International Law and Environmental Peacebuilding”

- September 21, 2023 – November 16, 2023: The Peace Piece: Primers for Peace at CoP28
- September 22, 2023 – April 30, 2024: Deltas- Unite: Urgent Call for Climate Action with a UN Convention for Conserving River Deltas
- October 05, 2023: Environmental Peacebuilding and Low Political Legitimacy: Challenges for Implementation

Environment and Security Journal

In September 2023, EnPAx and SAGE Publishing launched the journal [*Environment and Security*](#). *Environment and Security* is the leading global outlet for peer-reviewed research and debates on issues at the intersection of environmental and security. *Environment and Security* is a quarterly journal that seeks to publish innovative research on the intersections between environmental and security issues, and to inspire debates by decision makers and practitioners. All research published in the journal engages with and advances existing academic debates on the topic, either through presenting novel empirical findings, through theoretical elaboration, or through insights from practitioners.

The first issue of the journal was published on September 29, 2023 and EnPAx hosted a well-attended launch event on October 3, 2023.

M&E Toolkit

In December 2023, ELI and EnPAx, with support from the United States Institute of Peace (USIP), launched a [*Toolkit on Monitoring and Evaluation of Environmental Peacebuilding*](#). The Toolkit provides a comprehensive framework to equip global practitioners with approaches to effectively monitor, evaluate, and learn from environmental peacebuilding policy. This groundbreaking toolkit represents a step forward in understanding of what role monitoring and evaluation (M&E) should play in larger environmental peacebuilding initiatives.

Designed for practitioners, the toolkit offers learning opportunities for staff who are responsible for designing and implementing interventions, as well as the M&E professionals who are called upon to design these processes for environmental peacebuilding interventions. It provides an overview of the importance of Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning challenges, a practical conceptualization of M&E, good practices, context-based guidance, and external learning resources.

MOOC: Environmental Security and Sustaining Peace

In October 2023, EnPAx partnered with the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Academy and collaborators to host the Massive Online Open Course on Environmental Security and Sustaining Peace, a free, self-paced course on natural resources as a vehicle for peace. Alex Turgul serves as the MOOC Coordinator for this year.

The updated format included office hours to engage participants and case studies from more than 60 countries. More than 500 people registered and participated. Collaborators organizations included ELI, UNEP, UN Development Program, Duke University, University California at Irvine (UCI), and Columbia University.

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 12 Interest Groups.

Africa

The objective of the Africa Interest Group, which was launched in 2020, is to provide a platform for collaboration on areas of common interest relating to environment, conflict, peace, and security in Africa. It also aims to undertake activities at the African regional, sub-regional, national, and local levels. The Chair of the Interest Group is Octavio Goio.

Big Data and Frontier Technologies

The Big Data and Frontier Technologies Interest Group seeks to collect and share information on how to use big data and frontier technologies for environmental peacebuilding. In 2023, the group submitted a flagship report on frontier technologies for environmental peacebuilding to the UN Environment Programme leadership for formal review. The group then revised the report based on the feedback. It is scheduled for release during the June 2024 EnPAx conference in The Hague. The Chair of the Interest Group is Benjamin Dills.

Climate Change, Disasters and Resilience

Following discussions with Board members, the Chairs of the Disasters & Resilience Interest Group agreed to rename it as the Climate Change, Disasters, & Resilience Interest Group. The Chairs are interested in finding a third person who could lead on climate change-related activities. The objective of this group is to engage a community of peers working and interested

in the field of Climate Change, Disasters and Resilience as related to Environmental Peacebuilding. The Group aims to encourage member involvement through sharing work, expertise, and supporting professional development and knowledge sharing. The Chairs of the Interest Group are Charles Kelly and Kristin Weis.

Education

The objective of the Education Interest Group, which was launched in 2020, is to provide resources for educators, practitioners, and students to advance their knowledge and the knowledge-based practice in Environmental Peacebuilding. In 2023, the Interest Group collaborated with the Environmental Change and Security Project (ECSP) at the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars to an Oral History of environmental peacebuilding. Under the leadership of Claire Doyle and Lauren Risi at ECSP, the team conducted interviews with key leaders in the environmental peacebuilding field including Ken Conca, Geoff Dabelko, Carl Bruch, Erika Weinthal, Silja Halle, Gloria Amparo Rodriguez, Tobias Ide, Dhanasree Jayaram and Joram Tarusarira. The interviews were approved as official Path the Hague events in the lead up to the Third International EnPAx conference. The Chairs of the Interest Group are Nikola M. Zivovic and Nancy Boyer.

Forest

In order to pursue its objective of raising awareness of the environment and climate security risks as related to forests, the Forest Interest Group aims to develop and maintain external relationships with other organizations and institutions concerned with the field; hold events and network with potential partners and other Interest Groups; and to support and engage with members through various media to support, track, and report developments, opportunities, and trends. In 2023, the Group increased its membership to 38 members. Please see Annex 1 for the list of Forest Interest Group webinars. The Chair of the Interest Group is Bernd Unger.

Gender

The Gender Interest Group, which was re-launched under new leadership in late 2020, 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 GIG follows 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 GIG will strive to coordinate advocacy and outreach on these topics. The Chair of the Gender IG is Marisa Ensor.

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 explores emerging approaches to international law on environmental peacebuilding, for example how international law related to gender, climate change, environmental security, indigenous peoples, investment, trade etc., can shape environmental peacebuilding. Finally, 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.

The Group sponsored events in February 2023 and July 2023 with partners to examine the links between armed conflicts, the environment and human rights law and international environmental law. The Chair of the Interest Group is Stavros Pantazopoulos.

Middle East and North Africa

The newly formed Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Interest Group came together in 2023 in light of ongoing conflicts in the region. The group has approximately 12 members this year. The group is led by Peter Schwartzstein and Suleiman Halasah.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The M&E Interest Group seeks to engage members in discussion and progressive debate on monitoring and evaluation practice within the field of environmental peacebuilding. The objective is for members to contribute to the development of good practice, an evidence base, and shared learning. The IG led the design and delivery of the M&E Toolkit platform, the groundbreaking project which took stock of existing literature and good practices in order to produce a review article on the current state of knowledge on the subject, a toolkit for practitioners, and a policy brief aimed at decision-makers. Guided by an advisory group consisting of global scholars and practitioners from a diverse range of disciplines, the project is led by Carl Bruch and Amanda Woomer. The Chairs of the Interest Group are Amanda Woomer and Juha Uitto.

Transitional Justice

This new Interest Group on Transitional Justice was formed and gained momentum in 2023, with a significant amount of interest being expressed by EnPAx members eager to join. The group aims to enhance transitional justice forums by focusing on networking, idea exchange, research, and the development of opinions and briefs. The Interest Group is led by Munini Mutuku.

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. Areas of interest include the protection of water infrastructure, migration, and rivers' rights. Members will discuss and examine the different scales of cooperation on shared water resources ranging from the global and regional to basin and local levels. The strengths and weaknesses of different models for water management and protection will be considered with a view toward preventing and resolving water disputes, and to helping countries manage water to recover after conflict. The Chair of the Interest Group is Lena Salame.

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 Second Conference on Environmental Peacebuilding, while facilitating learning exchange through webinars and discussion forums tailored to the groups' diverse interests. The Chairs of the Interest Group are Elsa Barron and Mirali Shukla.

Membership 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. The profiles are included in the Environmental Peacebuilding Update and posted at <https://www.environmentalpeacebuilding.org/news/profiles/>.

Annex: List of EnPAX-Sponsored Events in 2023

Event and Location	Date
<i>Extended Dialogue on Forests, Livelihoods and Peace -- Trust Building</i> Online EnPAX Forest Interest Group	18 January 2023
<i>Environmental Peacebuilding - The Year in Review and the Year Ahead</i> Online Environmental Peacebuilding Association	24 January 2023
<i>Webinar: Author Dr. Anne Dienelt Presents: "Armed Conflicts and the Environment: Complementing the Laws of Armed Conflict with Human Rights Law and International Environmental Law"</i> Online EnPAX Law Interest Group, IUCN-WCEL Environmental Security and Conflict Law Specialist Group and Erik Castrén Institute of International Law and Human Rights, Faculty of Law, University of Helsinki	2 February 2023
<i>Extended Dialogue on Forests, Livelihoods and Peace: Good Governance and Legality</i> Online Forest Interest Group of the Environmental Peacebuilding Association	15 March 2023
<i>Water: A Driver for Peace and Conflict (A Path to The Hague Event)</i> The Hague, Netherlands Youth Peace Initiative and Cirrus Student Association	11 May 2023
<i>EnPAX Spotlight: McKenzie F. Johnson</i> Online Environmental Peacebuilding Association	17 May 2023
<i>Extended Dialogue on Forests, Livelihoods and Peace: The Role of the Donor (A Path to The Hague Event)</i> Online AHT GROUP and EnPAX Forest Interest Group	24 May 2023
<i>Protecting the Environment is Protecting Civilians: Humanitarian Effects of Conflict-Related Damage to the Environment and Civilian Infrastructure</i> New York, NY Environmental Peacebuilding Association, IOM, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Vietnam to the United Nations, UNMAS, Swiss Confederation, Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the United Nations, and PAX	25 May 2023
<i>Webinar on Accountability for Conflict-Related Environmental Harm (A Path to The Hague Event)</i> Online	5 July 2023

EnPAX Law Interest Group and IUCN-WCEL Environmental Security and Conflict Law Specialist Group	
<i>Extended Dialogue on Forests, Livelihoods and Peace: Gender</i> (A Path to The Hague Event) Online AHT GROUP and EnPAX Forest Interest Group	12 July 2023
<i>Environmental Peacebuilding Indicator Hackathon</i> Online Environmental Law Institute and EnPAX M&E Interest Group	8 August 2023
<i>Public Consultation on the Third International Conference on Environmental Peacebuilding</i> Online Environmental Peacebuilding Association and the Grotius Center for International Legal Studies at Leiden University	12 September 2023
<i>Extended Dialogue on Forests, Livelihoods and Peace: Facilitation, Negotiation, and Mediation</i> (A Path to The Hague Event) Online EnPAX Forest Interest Group	13 September 2023
<i>Book Launch for the "Research Handbook on International Law and Environmental Peacebuilding"</i> (A Path to The Hague event) The Hague, Netherlands and online Grotius Centre for International Legal Studies Lunds Universitet	20 September 2023
<i>The Peace Piece: Primers for Peace at CoP28</i> (A Path to The Hague Event) Online Geneva Peacebuilding Platform	21 September 2023
<i>Deltas-UNite: Urgent Call for Climate Action with a UN Convention for Conserving River Deltas</i> (A Path to The Hague Event) Hybrid Institute for Environmental Diplomacy and Security, University of Vermont	22 September 2023 - - 30 April 2024
<i>Making Financing Accessible to Artisanal Gold Mining Communities</i> Online IMPACT	27 September 2023
<i>MOOC on Environmental Security and Sustaining Peace</i> Online Environmental Peacebuilding Association, Environmental Law Institute, Duke University, UC-Irvine, UNEP, Columbia University, and the SDG Academy	2 October 2023 -15 December 2023
<i>Launch of "Environment and Security"</i> Online Environmental Peacebuilding Association and SAGE	3 October 2023

<i>Environmental Peacebuilding and Low Political Legitimacy: Challenges for Implementation</i> (A Path to The Hague Event) Online CGIAR Focus Climate Security and CGIAR Initiative on Climate Resilience	5 October 2023
<i>The Peace Piece: "Addressing the Root Causes: Taking Action on Military Spending and Emissions to Advance Climate, Gender Justice, and Peace"</i> (A Path to The Hague Event) Online Geneva Peacebuilding Platform	5 October 2023
<i>LUCIR Talk: Protecting Nuclear Power Plants During War: Implications from Ukraine</i> (A Path to The Hague Event) The Hague, The Netherlands Universiteit Leiden	10 October 2023
<i>The Peace Piece: "Making a Difference Towards Peace: Ensuring Conflict Sensitivity in the Loss and Damage Fund"</i> (A Path to The Hague Event) Online Geneva Peacebuilding Platform	16 October 2023
<i>The Peace Piece: "Where's the Evidence? A Look at Existing Research and Opportunities for Generating Evidence on Climate, Peace, and Security"</i> (A Path to The Hague Event) Online Geneva Peacebuilding Platform	19 October 2023
<i>The Peace Piece: "Youth as Catalysts for Peace and Climate Action"</i> (A Path to The Hague Event) Online Geneva Peacebuilding Platform	26 October 2023
<i>Art for Peace: Reflect & Connect at Geneva Peace Week</i> Online Environmental Peacebuilding Association	31 October 2023
<i>Art for Peace: Reflect & Connect at Geneva Peace Week</i> Online Environmental Peacebuilding Association	1 November 2023
<i>The Environment at Geneva Peace Week: Takeaways and Future Directions</i> Online Environmental Peacebuilding Association and the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform-led Community of Practice on Environment, Climate, Conflict, and Peace	9 November 2023
<i>Extended Dialogue on Forests, Livelihoods and Peace: Monitoring & Evaluation</i> (A Path to The Hague Initiative) Online EnPAX Forest Interest Group and M&E Interest Group	15 November 2023

<p><i>The Peace Piece: "Not Reinventing the Wheel: What Lessons Can Climate Funds Learn from Development and Peacebuilding Actors?"</i> (A Path to The Hague Event)</p> <p>Online Geneva Peacebuilding Platform</p>	16 November 2023
<p><i>DeltasUNite: UN-CCRD Global Dialogue, Contributions and Inputs to Sharpen the Governance and Policy Framework</i> (A Path to The Hague Event)</p> <p>Burlington, VT and online University of Vermont</p>	20 November 2023
<p><i>The Peace Piece: "Pieces of Peace: Formal and Informal Pathways in Resilient Environmental Cooperation in Conflict Contexts"</i> (A Path to The Hague Event)</p> <p>Online Geneva Peacebuilding Platform</p>	30 November 2023
<p><i>Launch of the Toolkit on Monitoring and Evaluation of Environmental Peacebuilding</i></p> <p>Online Environmental Law Institute and the Environmental Peacebuilding Association</p>	30 November 2023
<p><i>DeltasUNite: Urgent Call for Climate Action with a UN convention on Conserving River Deltas (UNCCRD)</i> (A Path to The Hague event)</p> <p>Bennington College, Environmental Peacebuilding Association, Deltas, Dawson United Arab Emirates,</p>	4 December 2023
<p><i>Empowering Tomorrow's Peacemakers: Youth's Vital Role in Climate Peacebuilding</i></p> <p>Online Global Coalition on Youth, Peace and Security Working Group on Climate</p>	15 December 2023

The Environmental Peacebuilding Association® (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.