

# SUMMARY REPORT

18 - 19 MARCH 2021

# ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE FOR PEACE IN COLOMBIA

CONFERENCE +  
POLICY DIALOGUE



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# OVERVIEW of the ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE FOR PEACE IN COLOMBIA series

The "Environmental Governance for Peace in Colombia" event series was developed in collaboration with the Environmental Law Institute (ELI), the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), the Environmental Peacebuilding Association (EnPAx), Duke University's Center for International and Global Studies (DUCIGS) and The Nicholas School of the Environment, Externado University of Colombia, and the United Nations Development Program, and support from the Swedish Postcode Foundation.

The two-day was held virtually over Zoom and Remo on 18-19 March 2021. The joint event brought together researchers and practitioners to discuss lessons learned and potential pathways forward for natural resource management in Colombia's peace process.

Guiding questions centers on current laws, institutions and practices, efforts to utilize the environment as a peacebuilding tool, and how these ideas can be used in practice to aid in the transition to sustainable peace in Colombia

along four themes: Land & Forests, Extractives, Climate Change, and Justice & Rights.

During the two-day conference and policy dialogue, participants examined ways to improve environmental governance and legality of natural resource management to support peace in Colombia, focusing on four overarching sets of questions:

1. In the context of natural resources and peace in Colombia, what do legality and environmental rule of law mean? How can legal regimes protect both the environment and communities?
2. What laws, institutions, and practices are working, and which need to be revised? How?
3. What are the priority next steps for managing Colombia's natural resources to support the transition to peace?
4. What has been done in Colombia to use natural capital as an instrument for peacebuilding? What has been achieved, what have we learned, and how can this be leveraged?



Land &  
Forests



Extractives  
(oil, gas, and  
minerals)



Climate  
change



Justice &  
Environmental  
Rule of Law

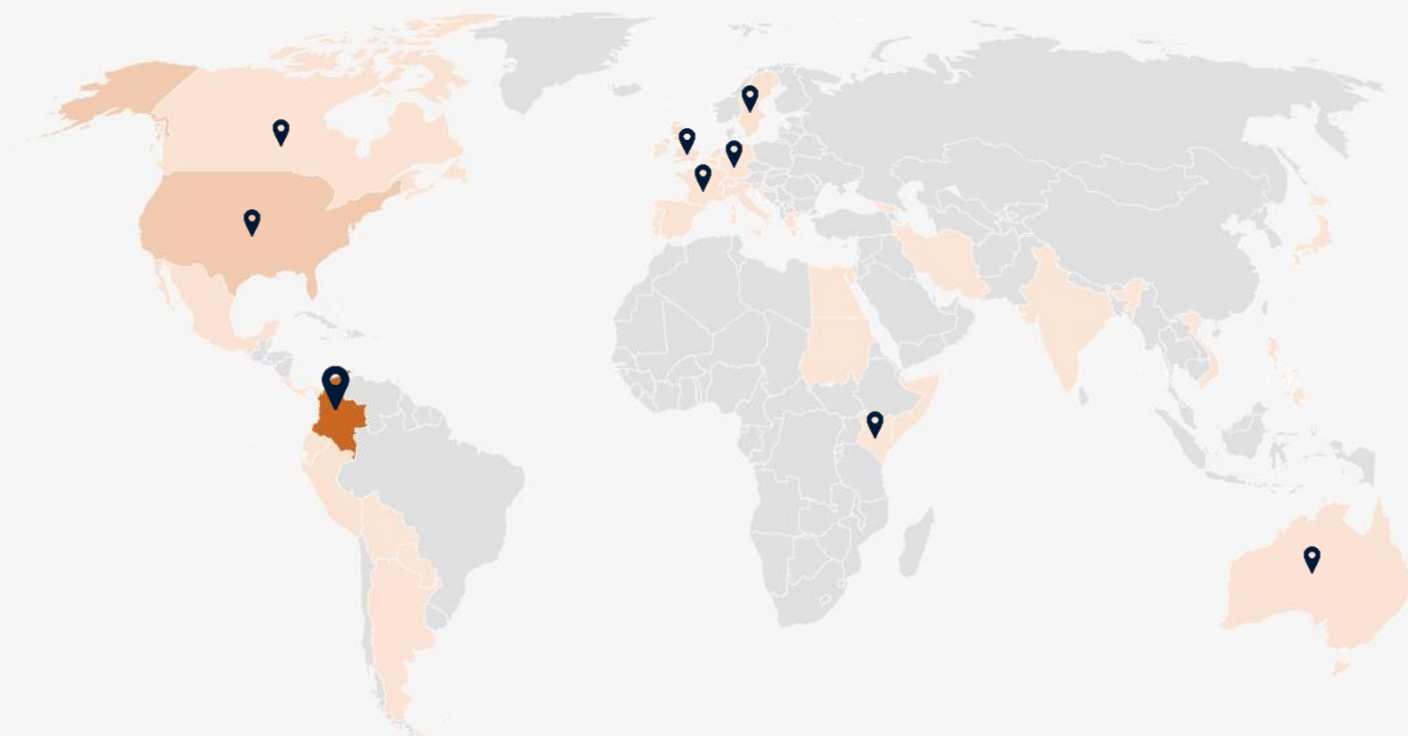


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# DEMOGRAPHICS

## DENSITY MAP OF REGISTRANTS' COUNTRIES

📍 Speakers



The “Environmental Governance for Peace in Colombia” series hosted more than 700 people from 40 different countries (highlighted in the map above by density and below in text). Throughout the day, the YouTube livestreams (in Spanish and English) received over 500 unique views. Our 50 speakers and 32 poster presenters represented 9 different countries, with more than half working and/or living in Colombia. Following is the list of countries of the participants:

Argentina	Ecuador	Japan	Portugal
Australia	Egypt	Kenya	Somalia
Bangladesh	France	Mexico	Spain
Belgium	Georgia	Netherlands	Sudan
Bolivia	Germany	New Caledonia	Sweden
Bosnia & Herzegovina	Greece	Northern Ireland	Switzerland
Canada	India	Panama	United Kingdom
Colombia	Iran	Paraguay	United States of
Costa Rica	Ireland	Peru	America
Croatia	Italy	Philippines	Vietnam



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# AGENDA

## Conference | 18 March 2021

10.00 COT	Session 1: Welcome and Opening Plenary
11.30 COT	Parallel Sessions 2A: Forest Governance: Challenged and Opportunities 2B: Climate Change and Peacebuilding in Colombia 2C: Community Governance, Natural Resources, and Peace
14.00 COT	Parallel Sessions 3A: Land Use Approaches 3B: Extractive Governance: Lessons from Mining, Oil, and Gas 3C: Environmental Law and Justice
15.30 COT	Session 4: Reflections on the Conference
16.10 COT	Session 5: Poster Session
17.30-19.00 COT	Session 6: Reception

## Policy Dialogue | 19 March 2021

9.00 COT	Lessons, Challenges, and Solutions for Environmental Peacebuilding in Colombia
10.30 COT	Parallel Working Groups
11.30 COT	Plenary Session on Working Group Conversations
12.00-13.00 COT	Closing Panel: Reflections and Next Steps for Environmental Governance for Peace in Colombia

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# SESSION SUMMARIES:

## CONFERENCE

### *Session 1: Welcome & Opening Plenary*

Moderator: Ángela María Amaya Arias, Universidad Externado de Colombia

1. “Environmental Rule of Law, Justice, and Peace” by Jonas Ebbesson, Stockholm University
2. “Human, Constitutional, and Nature’s Rights in Post-Conflict Colombia” by Gloria Amparo Rodríguez, Special Jurisdiction for Peace
3. “Deforestation, a stone in the way of peace” by Rodrigo Botero, The Foundation for Conservation and Sustainable Development
4. “Green Peace” by Jimena Puyana, United Nations Development Programme

In the Opening Plenary, the panelists discussed the challenges of environmental conservation in a context of conflict, what has to be done in Colombia to use natural resources as an instrument to build peace, and what has been achieved thus far. They argued that environmental issues should be connected to issues of justice and peace, and this interconnectedness is particularly evident in Colombia, where the armed conflict has led to severe environmental degradation. In particular, the armed conflict in Colombia has led to a severe impact on areas of biodiversity, through illegal mining and deforestation, among other things.

### *Session 2A: Forest Governance: Challenges and Opportunities*

Moderator: Kristine Perry, Environmental Law Institute

1. “Sustainability Challenges in Colombia’s Transition to Peace: Lessons on Deforestation in the Northwestern Amazon” by Sebastián Gómez Zúñiga, Andes University and Simón Ladino Cano, Sorbonne Nouvelle University
2. “Process of Elaboration of the Report Towards the Recognition in the Integral System of Truth, Justice, Reparation and Non-Repetition (SIVJRNR) of the Rights of Nature, the Territory and the Group of Park Rangers of the National Park System as Victims of the Armed Conflict in Colombia” by Libardo Suárez Fonseca, Natalia Jimenez Galindo, and Gisela Paredes Leguizamón, Collective of Park Rangers of the National Park System of Colombia
3. “Prospective analysis of the environmental conflict of deforestation in the Nukak National Natural Reserve, Guaviare” by Kimberly Alejandra Valencia Cardona and Valentina Arango Rincón, Antioquia University



In this session, panelists discussed the opportunities and challenges of forest governance in Colombia. The peace agreement with the FARC was discussed, including the harm that has been suffered due to the armed conflict in the past. Solutions were proposed for deforestation, and the one panelist addressed the issue of excessive ranching and its effect on environmental conservation efforts. All panelists agreed that more localized approaches would be more successful, as well as involving local communities in the conversation surrounding environmental conservation.

### *Session 2B: Climate Change and Peacebuilding in Colombia*

Moderator: Nora Moraga-Lewy, Pulitzer Center for Crisis Reporting

1. “Environmental Peacebuilding under Climate Change: Pathways, Challenges and Ways Ahead” by Tobias Ide, Murdoch University
2. “Partnering with Colombia on Climate Change and Security: The UK Approach” by Adam Forbes, Veronica Robledo, and Alex Castro, UK Embassy
3. “Planning in Energy Transition as an Instrument of Peacebuilding in Colombia” by Wilman Daniel Silgado Mejía, Externado University of Colombia
4. “Climate Adaptation and Peacebuilding: Opportunities for Alignment in Colombia” by Alec Crawford and Daniel Morchain, International Institute for Sustainable Development

Session 2B discussed the opportunities for environmental peacebuilding in Colombia. Panelists identified climate change as a threat multiplier that must be addressed, and proposed varying solutions, including avoiding conflicts related to natural resources and increasing access to renewable energy sources in remote areas. A cross-government approach was also discussed, focusing on supporting Colombia’s peace and climate-related goals.

### *Session 2C: Community Governance, Natural Resources, and Peace*

Moderator: Miguel Rojas Sotelo, Duke University

1. “Governance in Post-Conflict Scenarios: Assessing Models of Community-based Governance in the Departments of Caquetá and Cesar (Colombia)” by Luca Eufemia, Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research and Humboldt University of Berlin



2. “Environmental Governance in a Post-conflict Setting: Challenges and Opportunities for the Indigenous Peoples of the Colombian Amazon” by Paloma Vejarano-Alvarez, University of Technology, Sydney
3. “Community-based Environmental Peacebuilding – Developing a Framework for Post-conflict Natural Resource Management in Cesar, Colombia” by Samyra Hachmann, Humboldt University of Berlin
4. “Indigenous and Afro-Colombian territories after the Peace Agreement. Report on research methodologies and sources of local knowledge” by Marcela Velasco, Colorado State University

Panelists in this session discussed approaches for community governance of natural resources and their role in environmental peacebuilding. Local approaches are crucial for solving land use and socio-ecological problems that have hampered progress toward sustainable development. Drawing upon interviews and dialogues with local residents, NGOs, stakeholders in government, and academia, the panelists argued that environmental peacebuilding at the community level can lead to a better environmental and economic recovery, while acknowledging the many challenges that still remain in implementing this approach.

### *Session 3A: Land Use Approaches*

Moderator: Camilo Ortega Pardo, Global Green Growth Institute

1. “Governance for Peace by Whom and for Whom?” by James Larrea-Majía and Irene Vélez-Torres, Universidad del Valle
2. “Natural Capital, Spatial Finance, and Consolidating Peace in Colombia” by Steven Hyland, Wingate University, Gabriel Thoumi, Planet Tracker, and Liliana Duica-Amaya, Independent Researcher
3. “Peace is Also Made with Nature” Jennifer Martínez, Agroecological Multiactiva Cooperative of Tourism, Peace and Food Sovereignty
4. “Reducing Deforestation in Colombia while Building Peace and Pursuing Business as Usual Extractivism?” by Torsten Krause, Lund University

During Session 3A, panelists discussed the different lenses through which land-use approaches in Colombia can be or should be utilized to promote peace. This session contrasted different intervention models for land-use as a peacebuilding tool, from local to international levels. Some government and international interventions (e.g., PDETs and REDD+) have had negative impacts on deforestation



and land conflicts. More localized approaches bringing together disparate groups have seen more success in both conservation and economic stability; however, another panelist took to the international lens to discuss the potential success of spatial financing to achieve the same results.



## *Session 3B: Extractive Governance: Lessons from Mining, Oil, and Gas*

Moderator: Christian Felipe Lesmes, UN Development Programme

1. “Indigenous Responses to Mining in Post-Agreement Colombia” by Diana Carolina Arbeláez Ruiz, University of Queensland
2. “Ethnic Mining Legislation as a Necessary Tool for the Construction of Territorial Peace in Colombia” by Ginary Tatiana Gutiérrez Robledo, Procuraduría General de la Nación
3. “Gold and Peacebuilding in the Colombian Pacific: Collective Management of Informal Extraction among Traditional Afro-Colombian Communities” by Luz A. Rodríguez, Pontificia Universidad Javeriana and McKenzie Johnson, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
4. “Extractive Projects and Participatory Democracy: Learning from the Consulta Popular” by Jamie Schenk, University of Oxford

Ethnic minorities, particularly Afro-Colombian communities and Indigenous Peoples, are a vital population of the mineral and extractive sector in Colombia. Disputes over access to mining is highest in conflict zones and disproportionately affects these ethnic minorities. In this session, panelists shared insights on mining governance and legality, the impacts of mining governance on ethnic groups, including access and allocation, and pathways forward to ensure protection of these groups across Colombia’s mining sector.

## *Session 3C: Environmental Law and Justice*

Moderator: Luis Felipe Guzmán, Universidad de Externado de Colombia

1. “Payment for Environmental Services as a Tool for Peacebuilding in Colombia” by Carolina Montes Cortés, Externado University of Colombia
2. “Land Rights, Environmental Governance and Peace Building” by Mauricio Velásquez, Andes University
3. “Legality and Environmental Citizen Participation: Indissoluble Elements of a Stable Peace” by Jorge Ivan Hurtado Mora, Externado University of Colombia
4. “(Un)coordinated Responses of the State and Civil Society to Socio-environmental Conflicts: Challenges, Opportunities and Spaces for Environmental Governance in Caquetá, Colombia” by Hector Morales Muñoz, Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Research and Humboldt University of Berlin

Session 3C held a dynamic discussion around the socioecological issues tied to Colombia’s conflict. Panelists discussed the divide between state and non-state



actors, pushing for more trust and capacity building; took a critical look at current conservation models and their impacts on society and peacebuilding; and evaluated the role of local governance in environmental peacebuilding efforts. There was a clear emphasis on the importance of participatory processes in environmental decision-making as a potential pathway to solidify peace in Colombia.

### *Session 4: Reflections on the Conference*

Moderator: Carl Bruch, Environmental Law Institute

1. César Jerez, Fruits of Peace
2. Lina Muñoz, Rosario University
3. Claudia Capera, UNDP Colombia

Speakers reflected on different sessions throughout the conference and spoke to what the future holds for environmental peacebuilding in Colombia. They emphasized a hopeful outlook, proven by the discussions and research presented throughout the day. They highlighted the importance of institutional reform and international cooperation. The future of Colombia's peacebuilding efforts needs to center efforts on compliance measures to achieve the development, inclusion, and peace the country is looking towards.

### *Session 5: Poster Session*

*Links to each poster can be found in the last section of this document*

"Counter-hegemonic economies at the service of the environment and peace" by Antonia Arévalo Agredo, Externado University

"Peace and Parks in the Colombia Amazon: Transformations in the Governance for Protected Areas in the Transition from Conflict and Peacebuilding" by Leonardo Aya, Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Luz A. Rodriguez, Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, and McKenzie Johnson, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

"Mocoa Puerta de la Amazonia, a Debate on Biodiversity, Mining and the Transition towards a Stable and Lasting Peace in the Territory" by Cristian Bermúdez, Externado University of Colombia



"A Mutli-Scale Sustainability Analysis in Regions with Different Levels of Violence by an Armed Conflict" by Serena Caucci, United Nations University-FLORES and Jairo Guzman, UNU-FLORES

"Land Restoration: A Solution to Population Vulnerability to Climate Change in Fakara Niger" by Mohamadou Habibou Gabou, Ministry of Environment, Urban Sanitation and Sustainable Development, Abdou Maisharou, National Agency of the Great Green Wall, Ministry of Environment, Urban Sanitation and Sustainable Development, and Ousseyni Kalilou, Forest Interest Group, Environmental Peacebuilding Association

"The Conception of Legality in the Framework of the Fight against Drugs and Its Environmental and Social Implications in Strategic Ecosystems" by David Gómez-Fajardo, University of the Andes and Juliana Vélez Duque, Columbia University

"Understanding how the Current Environmental Governance and Natural Resource Management May Affect Peace in Colombia: Lessons Learned from Indonesia, Myanmar, and the Sahel" by Ousseyni Kalilou, Environmental Peacebuilding Association

"Institutional Changes and Vanguard Court Decision: The Case of the Colombian Atrato River" by Curtis Kline, Colorado State University

"Rebel Forest Governance" by Meike Lawrenz, Goethe University Frankfurt am Main

"Community Self-Governance as a Guarantee for the Rights of Nature" by Jessica Alejandra Martínez, Andean University Simón Bolívar

"Environmental Governance as an Exercise of Territorial Consolidation of the TICOYA-Puerto Nariño Amazonas Indigenous Reservation" by Ana Milena Molina, Nueva Granada Military University, Alexander Rojas, Nueva Granada Military University, and Emilmar Sulamit Rodriguez Caldera, Faculty of Distance Studies (FAEDIS)

"The Role of Environment in the Rural Development for Peacebuilding" by Viviana M. Oquendo-Patino, Oregon State University

"Environmental Peace and Alternative Youth: The Proposal of the Fundación Ambiental Protectora de Planadas Tolima within the Framework of the School, Territory, and Post-Conflict Project" by Santiago Andrés Padilla Quintero, University of Ibagué

"Post Agreement and Peacebuilding in Colombia: a look at the search for Environmental Justice" by Diana Quevedo Niño, Externado University of Colombia

"Rethinking the Relationship Between Peace and Environment" by Lorenz Rodrigo Peh, Lund University and Rigoberto Abello Rodríguez, Social, Environmental and Peasant Organizations of Caquetá



"Leveraging Trauma for Peace: Integrating Mental Health and Conservation Planning in Colombia's Conflict Context" by Anna Rossi, Environmental Peacebuilding Association

"Conservation and Coercive Fragmentation; Illicit Crops and Rural Development in Negotiations and Post-conflict: The Case Study of Puerto Asís, Putumayo" by Michael David Ruiz Leal, National University of Colombia

"¡Silencio!" by Juan Samper, Lund University

"Defense of the Territories for the Preservation of Nature, Ecological Restoration for Peace and the Construction of a Better Life" by Jorge Santofimio, Arando La Paz Corporation

"Protection for Whom? Post-Conflict and Land Use Dilemmas in the Sumapaz Páramo" by Sandra Valencia, University of Gothenburg

"Macarena of Colors, an Alternative of Life: Nature Tourism with a Community Focus in the Villages of La Macarena, Meta" by Alejandra Verano, Sustainable Biotrade Corporation, Laura Alzate, Sustainable Biotrade Corporation, and Felipe Perdomo, Sustainable Biotrade Corporation

"The Territorialization of the Governance of Extractive Resources in Post-conflict Contexts: A Look at the Formalization Processes in Special Reserve Areas for Artisanal Mining in Colombia" by Zabrina Welter, University of Freiburg

"Unleashing Non-Timber Forest Products in Colombia: An Opportunity to Link Businesses and Peace" by Luis Rios, Partnerships for Forests and Paulo Pulgarin, Partnerships for Forests



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## POLICY DIALOGUE

### *Lessons, Challenges, and Solutions for Environmental Peacebuilding in Colombia*

Moderator: Gloria Amparo Rodriguez, Special Jurisdiction for Peace

1. Alberto Gómez Mejía, Colombian Network of Botanical Gardens
2. Oscar Amaya, Council of State (Consejo de Estado)
3. Deicy Jaramillo Rivera, Office of the Attorney General of the Nation
4. Carolina Jarro, Natural National Parks

The session opened on a presentation calling for more integration of environmental education for policy change. This idea was built upon through discussion of the environmental crisis in Colombia and ways to improve upon the peace agreement and its ties to the environment and agricultural practices as well as the role of judiciary branches in achieving these goals.

### *Working Groups (Breakout)*

Chair (WG1): Juan Bello, United Nations Environment Programme

Chair (WG2): Christian Felipe Lesmes, United Nations Development Programme

Chair (WG3): Miguel Rojas, Duke University

### *Plenary Session on Working Group Conversations*

Moderator: Kristine Perry, Environmental Law Institute

### *Closing Panel: Reflections and Next Steps for Environmental Governance for Peace in Colombia*

Moderators: Carl Bruch, Environmental Law Institute and Miguel Londoño, Global Green Growth Institute

1. Gloria Stella López Jaramillo, Superior Council of the Judiciary
2. Ole Bergum, Norwegian Embassy in Bogotá
3. Juan Carlos Losado, Congress of Colombia
4. Olga Lucia Patin Cure, Office of the Attorney General of the Nation



In this final session, speakers touched on the steps being taken in Colombia's judiciary branches and government to further policy on environmental protection and conflict alleviation. In particular, speakers touched on proposals brought to congress. These proposed laws would address the protection of nature, land access, and environmental rights –laws influenced by indigenous peoples and the recent spike in deaths of environmental leaders in Colombia.



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## CONVERSATION WITH THE COLOMBIAN JUDICIARY

Opening by Dr. Martha Lucia Olano de Noguera, Vice President, Superior Council of the Judiciary

“Strengthening the Capacities of Judicial Officers on the Environment and Fighting

Deforestation,” by Mary Lucero Novoa, Director of the Rodrigo Lara Bonilla Judicial School

“Environmental Justice: Jurisprudence of the Constitutional Court,” by Dr. Alberto Rojas Ríos, Chief Justice of the Constitutional Court

“Brazilian Environmental Jurisprudence and International Dialogues” by Dr. Antonio Benjamin, Justice, High Court of Brazil

“Globally Innovative Techniques for Judges Handling Environmental Cases” by Merideth Wright, Judge (ret.), Vermont Environmental Court

“Judgment STC 4360 of 2018 and Challenges for Its Compliance,” by Dr. Luis Armando Tolosa Villabona

“Popular Actions in Environmental Matters, and Their Challenges,” by Dr. Hernando Sanchez, Magistrate, State Council

Dialogue with Judges and Magistrates



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## LINKS

[Conference Webpage](#)

Recordings ([English](#), [Spanish](#))

[Posters](#)