

Theme The Nature of Peace

Exploring links between the natural environment and peace-building in post-conflict societies. This theme is interested in the natural environment in post-conflict societies. What role does nature have in peace building? How is the natural environment considered in fragile economies that need to develop quickly? Does peace always bring sustainable development? The researchers argue that environmental justice is a central dimension for sustainable peace and development in societies where internal armed conflicts have recently occurred.

Empirical evidence from around the world has shown that post-conflict reconstruction efforts often focus on the short-term and urgent needs of societies transitioning to peace. These processes, however, often fail to consider the root causes of the conflict (such as control over key natural resources) or to integrate dynamics such as those linked to the distribution of environmental "goods and bads" and participation in environmental politics. It is therefore of key importance to investigate how environmental justice brings sustainable peace and development in the long term. The theme brings together researchers from five different faculties (Social Sciences, Law, Humanities and Theology, Natural Sciences, and University Specialised Centres) to discuss and work on these issues.

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Activities

16 November – Open seminar on “Natural resource exploitation” with Christian Lund, professor Development, Resource Management and Governance, University of Copenhagen.

23 November – Open seminar on “Environmental law” with Frank Baber, professor Environmental Sciences, California State University.

18 January – the Jordan River Basin game with SydVatten and ThinkH2O

27 March – Open seminar on “Land and Natural Resources in (post) conflict” with Lars Buur from Roskilde University.

26-27 April – Final conference “The Nature of Peace – exploring links between the natural environment and peace-building in post-conflict societies” with keynote speakers Päivi Lujala, Department of Geography, University of Science and Technology, Carl Bruch, Environmental Law Institute, Miguel Londoño, Global Green Growth Institute, Colombia

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