CLIMATE, PEACE AND SECURITY CSPPS BRIEFING PAPER

FEBRUARY 2025

Virginia Noacco [CSPPS Secretariat]
Tifaine Amiotte-Suchet [CSPPS Secretariat]

ABOUT CSPPS

The Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (CSPPS) is a global network of civil society organisations supporting peacebuilding and conflict prevention efforts in fragile and conflict affected settings. CSPPS brings together a diverse representation of civil society globally from countries affected by fragility, conflict and violence, and international civil society organisations working on the issues of peacebuilding, statebuilding, conflict prevention and development. CSPPS supports in-country interventions to amplify the voice of civil society in political dialogues and relevant policy processes.

At the global level, CSPPS represents civil society in the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (IDPS), which is a unique strategic tripartite partnership for political dialogue that gathers civil society actors, governments from the g7+ group of countries, and donors represented by the International Network on Conflict and Fragility (INCAF)..

ABOUT THE CSPPS BRIEFING PAPERS

As part of a grant from the German ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, CSPPS is developing briefing papers on various themes interlinked with peacebuilding and conflict prevention. These include Gender Equality, Climate Change, Food Security and Poverty, Migration & forced displacement, COVID-19 and its persistent consequences, Digitalisation, Youth, Peace & Security, Civic Space, and Inclusion. The briefing papers are written on the basis of consultations led by the secretariat across the CSPPS membership, and remain close to the knowledge shared as a result.

On this basis, the briefing papers aim to give a general introduction to how peacebuilding and conflict prevention are interconnected and interlinked with the various themes aforementioned. Most importantly, they present, illustrate and highlight the multifaceted and diverse work of various CSPPS members, their expertise and insights on how these interlinkages play out in practice.
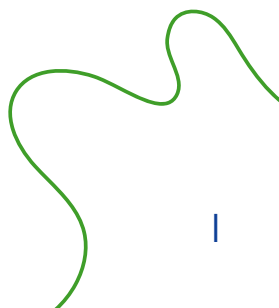
ABOUT THE CLIMATE, PEACE AND SECURITY BRIEFING PAPER

This climate briefing paper aims to show how CSPPS views the overlapping and interplaying effects of climate change, peacebuilding and security. This paper begins by examining how and to what extent the international climate change discourse came to integrate peace and security and the role of civil society in pushing for their integration. Secondly, the paper delves into how the interacting effects of climate change, conflict, and insecurity are, and how these must be seen as a holistic and intricate system of causes and effects rather than separated. Lastly, the paper examines CSPPS' efforts for a holistic understanding of the climate peace and security nexus and illustrates the work of CSPPS members to holistically address and act upon climate change, conflict and insecurity.
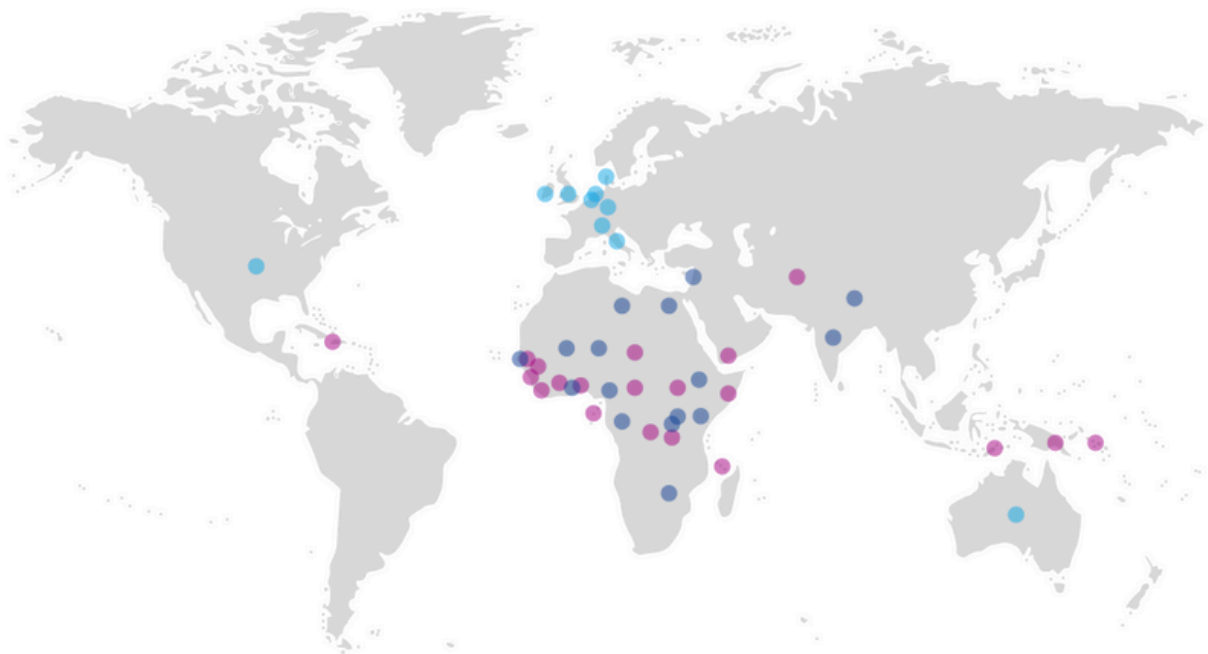
TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. UNTANGLING INTRICATE CHALLENGES - THE CLIMATE PEACE AND SECURITY NEXUS

STARTING THE CLIMATE CHANGE CONVERSATION

The impacts and dangers of climate change have been increasingly challenging over the years, and government and civil society alike have been increasingly addressing them. To do so, a series of protocols, agreements, and legislation have been developed, which has bound governments to combat climate change and allowed civil society to hold them accountable.

Kyoto Protocol

In 1997, countries adopted the Kyoto Protocol which would legally bind Developed Country Parties to emission reduction targets. The Protocol operationalises the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change by committing industrialised countries and economies in transition to limit and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by agreed individual targets. The UNFCCC is the body which organises the Conference of the Parties each year through which the Parties to the convention can come together and discuss the progress made and to be achieved. Civil society is invited at the COPs and uses its spaces to convey the importance of considering the climate change, peace, and security nexus. CSPPS has published several position papers, advocating for the inclusion of peace in the discussion, as well as developing policy recommendations to address the gaps left as a result.

Paris Agreement

Later, in 2015, 196 countries adopted the Paris Agreement at the COP21. The Paris Agreement is a legally binding international treaty on climate change. Its overarching goal is to hold "the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels" and pursue efforts "to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels." The Paris Agreement is a landmark in the multilateral climate change process, and though its provisions are relatively lax and leave much to the discretion to states, they have allowed civil society organisations to hold states accountable at the national level. The impact of international treaties and legislation is amplified by civil society which holds nations to their obligations .

ICJ -International climate law framework

International environmental law developed over time through binding positive obligations and establishing customary norms to all states. The latter adds to the international treaties signed between nations, and allows civil society and the international community to hold each other accountable.

Example 1 : precautionary principles

Customary precautionary principles require every state to carry out an environmental impact assessment before every operation. These principles are numerous, crucial and of a broad spectrum since they are imposed on the activities of private entities that use the territory of a State.

Example 2 : legal status of the environment

Since then, the environment has been recognised as a global public good meaning it is a good that goes beyond the jurisdiction of a single State, obligating collective and concerted management. This means that it allows any State to demand the respect of an international obligation, independently of whether it has been injured by the conduct it denounces. This rests on a founding principle of International Environmental Law, the erga omnes principle, meaning deterritorialisation and commodification of the environment.

THE CLIMATE PEACE AND SECURITY 'AGENDA'

Despite these processes, there is no per se agenda on the climate, peace and security nexus. However, we have :

UNFCCC:
The United Nations Framework Climate Change Convention recognises that the climate and vulnerability intersect. Indeed 19 of the 25 most climate-vulnerable countries are also affected by conflict and climate change is recognised as a threat multiplier. Their focus is to monitor the COP agreements.

Climate and Security Mechanism:

The UN established the climate and security mechanism led by the UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs with the UN Environmental Programme and supported by other UN agencies. This coalition demonstrates the magnitude of the challenges posed by climate change and the need for a response focusing on the short-, medium-, and long- term. Only in April 2007, the first meeting of the Security Council examining the interlinkages between climate change and insecurity happened. Since then, the United Nations has increasingly taken steps to effectively acknowledge the relations between the two issues.

Climate Peace and Security Nexus as a field of study and practice:

Various think-tanks, research institutes, CSOs, NGOs and universities have been studying the field to build on the indisputable evidence of the interrelation between climate change, peace and security. Its negative impacts result in reduced and even reversed development gains.

The role and space of civil society to advocate for peace within the international climate change discourse.

Furthermore, the spaces for civil society in high-level international events have **shrunk drastically** over the past decade and have yet to show signs of improvement. This is also the case in the climate space. Indeed, the recent Conference Of the Parties (COPs) had multiple flaws in including civil society, and were often criticised for the <u>inaccessibility to civil society</u> to the event and the harassment of <u>human rights defenders</u>. COP is a platform for dialogue and exchange, yet the inclusion of various stakeholders is far from representative of the world population and of those who suffer the most severe consequences of climate change and environmental degradation. For instance, COP27 and COP28 were further criticised for their ties and strong representation of fossil fuel lobbyists, <u>instead of civil society organisations</u>. Aware of this, the presidency of <u>COP 29 attempted to rebalance the participation.</u>

However, it is also important to note that among civil society, there are silos that hinder **collective action to more peaceful and climate resilient societies**. Climate change consequences and environmental degradation have been taken into account within the peacebuilding community for several years. They are seen and integrated within the recognised sources and challenges to peacebuilding and, thus, frequently addressed. Conversely, **conflict and fragile contexts** tend to be **less taken into account** within the community of practice focusing on combatting climate change (Krampe et al., 2024) . There is, thus, a need to build more integrated and transversal communities of practice, by **inciting cross-sharing**.

Civil society provides an insight as to the context of conflicts, but also has a transversal and holistic understanding of the challenges to peacebuilding and implementation of climate efforts. That is why **local civil society must be included in high-level conversations**.
Through its work, **CSPPS aims to bridge the local with the national and international level**, within the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding, but also through amplifying the voice of civil society in other global policy domains. The aim is to bridge the gap by ensuring local solutions in programming and advocacy.

II. THE BI-DIRECTIONAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CLIMATE CHANGE AND PEACEBUILDING

Climate change is widely recognised as a **"threat multiplier"** by scientists, practitioners and civil society. Firstly, climate change **threatens human security**, creating multiple vulnerabilities and exacerbating pre-existing social tensions. Secondly, catastrophic climate events, induced by climate change, **create new forms of dispossession**, bringing communities dependent on natural resources over critical points, and amplifying or even creating new conflicts. Thirdly, climate change has highlighted the **necessity to create diverse solutions** to problems, tailored to the various and diverse contextual needs.

Combatting climate change is a humongous endeavour requiring all levels of governance to come together, but it also demands an open mind, attentive ear and inclusion from institutions. Palliating the consequences of climate change is a disproportionate task which befalls civil society, in fragile and conflict-affected settings more than elsewhere as it is a challenge compounded by vulnerability and structural inequalities. **CSPPS is committed to bringing a shift in the efforts to combat the systemic drivers of climate change**, so they become more just and equitable. CSPPS also aims to **combat the inequalities that hinder the fight against climate change consequences and environmental disasters it provokes**.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND RESOURCES

Firstly, the consequences of climate change have different impacts. Its impacts are **amplified in economies and communities which depend on natural resources for livelihood**. There droughts, floods, and natural disasters decrease soil and crop quality, and lower yields, additionally increasing food and economic insecurity, and drive communities into poverty. This results especially in **youth unemployment**, which increases their and their families' economic hardships. Consequently youth is often **targeted by armed or extremist groups**, who may promise a consistent stream of income or protection in some form.

The increasing acquisition of land by corporations and multinationals for monocultures worsens this. It prevents youth from having access to small(er) parcels of land to support their families through diverse crops and food autonomy or cattle (or both). This hinders the diversification of crops and amplifies vulnerability to climate disasters.

Transhumance routes are not often protected by states and as the latter rarely considers it an effective use of public land, and it is often sold to multinationals. This endangers pastoralism as a livelihood in itself, contributing to increased tensions between communities, private actors, and the state. Additionally, the capacities of indigenous institutions as agents of change, and to combat the systemic over-exploitation of natural resources, are restrained, which in turn impede the management of evolving environmental and societal needs.

The example of Somalia :

Somalia is hit by changing rainfall patterns and protracted droughts that have desolated agriculture and fueled conflict with extremist groups like Al-Shabaab.

The example of the middle east :

In already desertic regions, where water is a source of conflict due to its scarcity. The Middle East is a region increasingly confronted with hydric stress as global temperatures increase. The dewatering of streams, rivers and aquifers, strains agricultural capacities. The scarcity of water has caused tensions between agricultural and pastoral communities, as well as between nations.

CLIMATE CHANGE AS AN AMPLIFIER AND DRIVER OF MIGRATION

The consequences of climate change rendering certain regions uninhabitable, drive legal and illegal migration. The depletion of fisheries, the desertification and/or flooding of arable soil lead to **fewer means of subsistence** and **drive migration towards more resourceful lands**.

For example, in Sudan, agriculture and livestock herding are primary means of survival for many communities. When these livelihoods are threatened by environmental changes (e.g. desertification or flooding), communities are often forced to migrate. This strains the availability of resources and services, as they must be shared with a larger group of people than originally intended. This has shown to amplify or create new sources of tension.

In addition, the **increased demand for resources** can **lead to unsustainable practices to accommodate those drastic changes**. For instance, the spike in firewood used may increase deforestation, or the sudden use of land can erode the soil impacting the long-term health of the environment. **Environmental pressures can and do undermine social cohesion and contribute to insecurity**.

In **Mauritania**, refugees from conflicts in Mali and internally displaced people (IDPs), are living in a greatly over-capacitated camp in the Hodh El Chargui region. This has resulted in the depletion of firewood and soil erosion.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND GOVERNANCE

To deal with the systemic origins and short term consequences of climate change, there is a **need for governments to have the capacities and resources to respond to the crisis**. Problematically, in conflict-affected settings and fragile contexts, the government is not always willing or in capacity to deal with the crisis. The capacity gaps created by conflict are exacerbated by eroded governance structures, strained human resources, and reduced technical expertise. Consequently, **responses are often fragmented and insufficient**, leaving security risks related to climate and climate-induced tensions unaddressed.

In Sudan, rebel groups and militias have been known to exploit resources, which ultimately gave them control over vital resources and further destabilising the region.

Eroded government structures hinder their ability to provide basic services, maintain the rule of law, or respond to disasters. Where the basic needs of the citizens are not met, government disillusionment may rise, which in turn, feed social, political and economic unrest and, in some cases, conflict. Additionally, the lack of trust in the government can result in vacuums which non-state actors fill, further fueling conflict. For instance, the ongoing conflict in South Sudan, was exacerbated by the failure of the State to manage climate-induced resource shortages, which added to political and ethnic tensions.

In the context of the **conflict in Darfur (Sudan)** the capacity gaps are particularly pronounced due to decades of conflict that have eroded governance structures, human resources, and technical expertise and importantly, the environment. These vacuums created space for non-state actors to fill the governance gap. At times, these actors take over the exploitation of resources illegally such as cacao, rare earth materials, or minerals, and abuse human rights of the local populations. The strength of governance is an essential element to avoid these power vacuums and subsequent consequences.

Furthermore, the **impact of crises is dependent on governance**. In other words, the level of impact of extreme weather events is dependent on the capacity and the quality of governance. This is especially visible in countries that are already institutionally and socially fragile. Indeed, 19 of the 25 most climate-vulnerable countries are also affected by conflict.

In this context, the ability of the government to palliate losses and ensure an equitable distribution is of paramount importance to determine the depth and breadth of a crisis' impact. Indeed, palliating the effects of climate change, and mitigating the inequalities between the so-called "winners" and "losers" of climate change depends on governance.

Thus, governance strengthening efforts must begin with funds and programmes aimed at improving social cohesion, peace and security, as well as building resilience to the impacts of climate and environmental change should take place in contexts of fragility, social division, and violence. So far climate finance has failed to account for the impact of governance gaps, mainly due to the perception of risks deterring long-term investments.

The **strength of institutions is an essential component to facilitate the green transition** in all settings and avoid future catastrophes. The capacity to plan a green energy future relies on resources, skills, and stability.

THE NEED TO INTEGRATE CLIMATE CHANGE IN PEACEBUILDING

With this in mind, the integration of climate change in statebuilding and peacebuilding demands investments in governmental capacity reinforcement. The **involvement of civil society organisations in peacebuilding efforts is key** when conflicts break down or paralyse the institutions responsible for the regulation of resource extraction, deforestation, and pollution control. **Local civil society often palliates the unregulated and uncontrolled environmental degradation**. For example in Guinea, civil society organised itself to raise awareness, strengthen and lead appropriate environmental preservation actions.

III. WHY IS THE INTEGRATION OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION RELEVANT TO PEACEBUILDING?
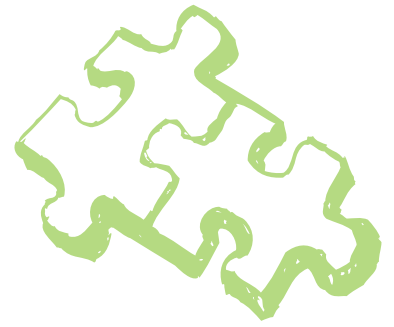
Section II explored how climate change is interlinked to peacebuilding and conflict and how it is a compounding factor in society. As such, the approach to the climate, peace and security nexus must be holistic. Within the peacebuilding sphere, practitioners have already begun to respond to the "security implications of climate change" as they see how it affects their missions, in addition to its "effects on communitie[s] relations with each other"(Krampe et al., 2024). The following section focuses on the challenges of implementing solutions and gives recommendations.

ADDRESSING THE ROOT CAUSES OF CONFLICT

At the international level

An example of recent international efforts is the 2024 United Nation Environmental Assembly adoption of a **consensus resolution** aimed at updating the United Nation Environmental Programme's work on the environmental dimensions of armed conflicts. This resolution demonstrates the international community's **commitment to more comprehensive approaches** to peacebuilding by proactively addressing the causes of conflict in response to global environmental challenges.

Climate and conflict sensitivity

Clear environmental solutions, such as digging a permanent well to increase access and proximity to water, can lead to conflict. A **context analysis** of the various social, economic and political factors of the sources of environmental damage is **needed to create conflict-sensitive climate solutions**. In the planning of projects, the meaningful inclusion and leadership of women, youth and marginalised communities must be included in questions of land tenure and ownership These can enable environmental preservation or reconstitution, which in turn, creates contexts in which land is no longer a source of conflict.

In **West Africa**, movements happen along two main migratory routes: Corubal River - Gabu - Pirada - Wassadou (Senégal) and Bafata - Geba River - Oio. In that context, where mobile pastoralism is not properly taken into account in climate solutions, there is a rise in conflicts where cattle and pastoralists depart, transit and arrive as the creation of infrastructure (e.g. wells) leads to the permanent settlement of communities on transhumance routes. The lack of regulations around the activities of farmers and shepherds creates conflictual situations. To counter these issues, our members work on the nexus in various ways. You can discover their initiatives to foster cultures of peace and climate-sensitivity through schools, and many others in the "examples of our work" section.

In **Sub-saharan Africa,** where agriculture is dependent on rainfall, and where changes in rainfall rarify fertile land, fuel conflicts between communities and worsen violent confrontations. Instances of this were seen in Nigeria where tensions arose between farmers and cattle owners about fertile land distribution and use.

As there are multiple factors to consider, integrated approaches account for resource distribution, and the possible tensions that can arise from granting land to one community rather than another.

In **Sudan**, large-scale agricultural or environmental projects have sometimes led to disputes over land ownership - as this is already a divisive issue - or control of resources, especially when local communities weren't consulted or when benefits were (perceived to be) distributed unevenly. Conflict-sensitive climate programming accounts for local power dynamics and ensures that interventions are designed to reduce existing tensions.

▶ Adapting language to reach wider communities

A focus on climate-sensitive approaches to peacebuilding risks creating imbalances in public attention, splitting funding and creating conflicts of interest. (e.g. building climate mitigation infrastructure can exacerbate conflicts and tensions). Furthermore, the oversimplification of language can blur scientific terms.

To that effect, it is important to work on the following points:
- It is important to **organise** and **strategise** the CSO community working on the climate, peace and security nexus. The **challenges** posed by conflicts and climate change **must be equally responded to**, and peacebuilding and climate practitioners must engage in integrating climate-sensitive and conflict-sensitive approaches to foster partnerships and alliances.

The language used must be more accessible and adapted to non-peacebuilding audiences.

▶ THE POTENTIAL PITFALLS OF INTERSECTING CLIMATE PEACE AND SECURITY RECOMMENDATIONS

The integration of climate peace and security presents some challenges that must be addressed to avoid pushing practitioners, civil society and organisations to the margins, and reducing their voices and impacts.

▶ Interdisciplinary cooperation and knowledge sharing

The contextualisation of climate responses is complex and it is key to integrate peacebuilding CSOs in the development and implementation of policies and national and international projects. Climate and conflict solutions designed by stakeholders across the Humanitarian Development and Peacebuilding nexus, should be **implemented by multi-actor consortia** which bridge over the silos hindering comprehensive and inclusive responses. Peacebuilding requires an **approach encompassing human rights protection, adaptation, and engagement** in activities that mitigate fragility and support communities' resilience. Less siloed communities of practice which can also result in innovative approaches, diversify funding and allow for flexibility, adaptability and inclusivity.

This impacts material reality and the culture of interdisciplinary cooperation, creating openings and chances to establish positive peace rather than a mere absence of conflict.

To this end the **development of effective and comprehensive toolkits** remains a challenge. In bringing local knowledge and challenges forth it needs to be acknowledged that the responsibility to tackle climate change and conflicts goes beyond the local scope. Toolkits for (local) civil society, (local) actors, and national governments, can - and have - greatly channelled change in the systems exploiting nature and people which have led to tensions, fragility, and the destruction of eco- and climate-systems. But integrating in toolkits the parallel international responsibility to combat the sources of climate change and the systems fueling conflict is imperative.

▶ Climate finance and conflict sensitivity

Climate finance, both private and public, **rarely reaches fragile states** due to **perceptions of high risk** which **deter long-term investment**. The common response to that is to shift the risk of loss so that it is borne by the state rather than the investor, which can worsen the economic situation of already fragile states. When it does reach them, funds are not always spent in a conflict-sensitive manner and the potential for integrating climate adaptation or environmental protection funds to peace and security initiatives, is often ignored.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's sixth assessment report confirms that funding climate actions leads to positive repercussions and new opportunities for peacebuilding. They create **occasions to restore trust between stakeholders and support social cohesion** in areas prone to conflict where, for example, investments in renewable energies can increase the independence of communities, and decrease the reliance on fuels while decreasing costs and increasing resilience to shocks.

Short-term vs long-term financing
The impacts of conflict and climate change happen on different time scales. Conflict and climate have immediate, short-term and long-term effects, all of which require different responses. This creates conflicting priorities, complicating the delicate balance between financing immediate peacebuilding or environmental catastrophe responses, and sustainable climate interventions.
To properly respond to both of these challenges, there is a need for flexible financial mechanisms which allow for both immediate and long term responses. It is, therefore, paramount to have integrated and holistic approaches in both domains and to break down the silos to finance intersecting operations which account for both conflict and environmental needs.

some solutions include :

A focus on where funds are invested in addition to the total spending when looking at climate finance to assess how and to what extent local communities are reached.

Amplify the voices of local peacebuilders, human rights defenders, youth, women, Indigenous Peoples, land rights and climate activists about addressing the impacts of climate change and conflict.

Systematising conflict-sensitivity in climate funding (Peace@COP29).

Incentivise large vertical climate funds to increase investments in fragile and conflict-affected situations. As specified in the Peace@COP29 policy recommendations, the focus should be on ensuring a more equitable and increased proportion of high-quality climate finance to fragile and conflict affected settings. It should be holistic and transparent and be gender transformative, but also give local actors the agency to lead design and implement projects and receive funds directly. A concrete translation could be a target for grant-based finance earmarked for FCAS, directly accessible by local actors.

Using local mechanisms to govern resources sustainably and transform (violent) conflict to increase peace-positive impact of climate funding.

Holistic approaches

Creating a holistic approach to peacebuilding with climate in focus demands the integration of two main points: 1) reinforcing climate resilience, and 2) have better adaptation capabilities.

The first focuses on **investing in resilience against environmental catastrophes**, particularly in FCAS. This includes social infrastructure, the diversification of economic sectors that rely on climate, and bettering agricultural practices to resist climate vulnerability. The second focuses on **reducing climate-induced stress by elaborating and implementing adaptation strategies** in at-risk communities and promoting sustainable practices of land management and access to durable water resources.

Furthermore, development, climate and peace finance programmes increasingly rigidify funding conditions which may delay or jeopardise the disbursement of funds. Thus, to implement holistic solutions, it is central to have **flexible, adaptive and sufficient financing**, which bridge over silos.

IV. HOW THE CSPPS NETWORK ENGAGES IN THE CLIMATE PEACEBUILDING NEXUS

AMPLIFYING
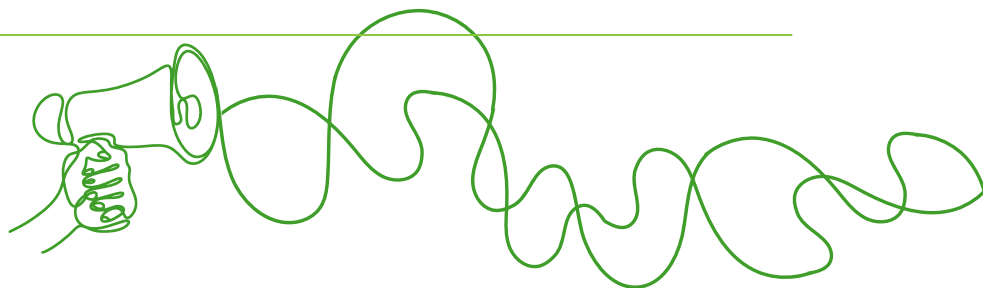
CSPPS strives to enhance civil society's capacity and amplify its voice and impact. By engaging in diverse initiatives, CSPPS empowers organisations with essential skills and resources, enabling them to contribute in policy development and advocacy. Several peacebuilding organisations CSPPS collaborates with, are committed to address the concerns and challenges of climate change.

For instance, through **collaborations with GPPAC and UNOY**, CSPPS has spearheaded the Peace Corner Podcast, which puts forward various challenges around peacebuilding. Season seven, focuses on the interlinkages between climate change, peace and conflict.

Through CSPPS is collaboration with the **Global SDG16+ Coalition** and like-minded organisations spearhead the **SDG16+ Voices Campaign** to highlight the work of civil society around SDG16+. The link to other SDGs, including climate, is often made to show the multifaceted work around SDG16 and emphasise the effects of climate change on social cohesion, stability and peace.

CSPPS has also crafted declarations, statements and resolutions to express common objectives and demands around climate and peacebuilding. Many of these were in close collaboration with Cordaid to clarify demands and NGO's position in the context of Conference Of the Parties (COP)28 and COP29.

In 2023, **CSPPS engaged in the COP28**, specifically during its first ever Peace Day. In this context, CSPPS published the backgrounder "Compounding Challenges in Conflict Settings. Local voices reflecting on climate, peace and security interlinkages", with the aim of highlighting the reality of climate change on the ground and its impact on peacebuilding and conflict prevention activities.

Following, we have engaged with the **Peace@COP community** to release a policy paper and common principles in advocating the interlinkages between climate, peace and security. In addition, CSPPS representatives regularly take part in international and national events that look at the nexus.

Lastly, we published various articles that look at ways the climate crisis is playing out, while illustrating concrete and innovative activities being implemented by civil society organisations to ameliorate its negative impacts.

LOBBY AND ADVOCACY

Lobbying and policy outreach is a key element of CSPPS' activities. Committed to the **2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals**, CSPPS provides a space and platform - where possible and needed - to amplify the voice and agency of civil society working on SDG16+. Putting forward the concerns and demands of civil society in its diversity in lobby efforts is essential to achieve the 2030 Agenda.

Within the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (IDPS), CSPPS holds a key role in representing civil society. The dialogue serves as an opportunity for lobbying and advocacy activities within the policy space of peacebuilding and statebuilding between civil society, governments and donors. With this, CSPPS brings forward various concerns including around climate, peace and security - and others - to the g7+ group and INCAF in these political dialogues.

Since January 2024, CSPPS has been in partnership with the **German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development** (BMZ). This partnership is crucial for CSPPS to enhance its focus on the intersection of peacebuilding and climate, as BMZ is also dedicated to overcoming challenges related to climate change and help its partner countries in overcoming challenges related to peace. This partnership increases CSPPS opportunities for advocacy and lobbying efforts with the German government. The collaboration allows CSPPS to **leverage their political influence and commitment to sustainable development to drive meaningful change**. It furthermore allows CSPPS to raise its voice collectively and advocate for policies that support, safeguard, and protect the environment and civil society's efforts in climate advocacy.

By leveraging this partnership, CSPPS can amplify its influence on policy-making processes and drive impactful change in international development agendas.

NETWORKING

Furthermore, the CSPPS actively collaborates with international organisations, governments, and civil society groups to **create a broad coalition that supports climate mainstreaming in peacebuilding**. CSPPS' network offers strategic access to key networks and events where discussions revolve around the climate and peacebuilding nexus. Additionally, it provides **grounded technical expertise and advocacy** across various policymaking spheres. Engaging in this network provides opportunities for **peer-to-peer learning**, **capacity development** and **resource acquisition**.

For the past years, CSPPS has been present at the **SIPRI Forum on Peace and Development** which explores various intersections between the field of development and peacebuilding amongst practitioners, academics, governments and donors. This networking event is essential in building relations with key stakeholders working in the field. In the latest edition of the Forum in 2024, the Secretariat organised a session on the Global Fragility Act and the role of climate change in conflict-affected settings.

CSPPS has engaged with **Cordaid** in 2024 ahead of COP29 through drafting a position paper that advocates for climate justice, equitable and accessible climate finance that reflects and responds to the needs of populations in fragile and conflict affected settings. Furthermore, CSPPS engages regularly with initiatives such as the **European Cluster Collaboration Platform** (ECCP), that seeks to connect with peacebuilding practitioners working on climate change. Taking part in such initiatives is important to break down the silos which hinder knowledge and practice sharing between communities of practice.

V. EXAMPLES OF OUR WORK

CSPPS advocacy efforts aim to amplify the voices and agency of its civil society member organisations. In the following section, we showcase the work of some members who drive progress on the intersection of conflict and climate issues. The increasingly manifested consequences of climate change foster fragility that they are forced to combat. It is progressively evident that implementing activities to palliate climate change induced tensions is fundamental for peacebuilding.

▶ Association des Jeunes pour la Citoyenneté Active et la Démocratie (AJCAD), Mali

AJCAD-Mali is a Malian civil society organisation bringing together young people committed to consolidating democracy and the State as a guarantee of stability and development. It implements and supports **youth-led initiatives** in **civic engagement**, **environmental protection** and **awareness of climate change**.
The organisation adopted a holistic approach to support displaced persons, by integrating humanitarian assistance, the establishment of water points and actions for conflict transformation.

AJCAD works actively to promote the links between climate change, peacebuilding and conflicts, but also to **highlight the importance of integrating environmental considerations in initiatives** to guarantee durable and efficient solutions.

Examples of their work :
For example, in regions touched by forced displacements such as Mopti, Ménaka and Tombouctou. AJCAD observes how the rarefaction of water resources due to climate change amplifies tensions between communities. By creating water points, AJCAD not only responds to an urgent need, but also favours intercommunity cooperation, reducing the risks of conflict.

▶ Platform for Dialogue and Peace

 The Platform for Dialogue and Peace was formed as the outcome of a United Nations and Interpeace collaboration and has been working on a variety of topics including natural resource management and peacebuilding.

Liberia faces significant risks as a result of climate change because of the high level of dependence on climate-sensitive activities, such as agriculture, fishery and forestry.

P4DP works to **strengthen the relationship between the state and the population** in a context of deep mistrust to manage natural resources, aiming to turn them into a peacebuilding tool rather than a driver of conflict.

Examples of their work :

P4DP's project focuses on the facilitation of intra-communitary dialogue in order to strengthen women's agricultural livelihood activities, as well as the creation of peace committees to prevent inter clan conflict, thus creating the stability needed for local communities to enjoy the fruits of their labour. This stability in turn facilitated the implementation of other project activities that contributed to the stabilisation of food and water resources. These interventions ultimately contributed to addressing concerns related to natural resource extraction and allowed communities to play an important role in driving local development initiatives.

▶ CEPSDEA and EVS (Espace Verts Sahel), Chad

CEPSDEA intends to mobilise stakeholders in the **search for sustainable solutions**, as well as **strengthening the resilience of communities** to enable them to cope with climate shocks. To that end they have developed a work plan to both scale up to the problem in Chad, given the current fragility, and to involve key players. This focuses in particular on public authorities, young people and women in peace processes and in meeting security challenges.

Espace Verts du Sahel (EVS) is an organisation focusing on **youth's education and awareness of climate and environmental challenges**, as well as creating knowledge to face them. The organisation principally work on education of the challenges created by climate change and the non-violent resolution of those challenges.

Both EVS and CEPSEDA advocate for the meaningful inclusion of women and young people in the decision making process, which would prevent the resort to negative coping mechanisms due to a lack of opportunities, for example joining extremist groups who promise income and purpose.

<u>Examples of their work :</u>
EVS hires and trains young volunteers who are deployed in sensitive areas to promote dialogue and peace, leading to conflict prevention. They deploy mainly in schools to raise awareness among youth about the environment, peaceful conflict resolution and their interlinkages.

▶ IIDA Women's Development Organization, Somalia

IDA strives to act at the **crossroads between climate resilience, peacebuilding, and community engagement**. IIDA aims to find long-term community-driven solutions, as true resilience and development come from community empowerment, and engagement of marginalised communities. Somalia is in a complex cycle of conflict, climate change, and fragility, exacerbated by political instability, violence from al-Shabaab, and extreme weather conditions.

IIIDA's actions aim to **leverage the role of civil society, institutions and the private sector** to effectively tackle interconnected challenges of climate, conflict, and fragility, ensuring greater stability and security for all.

<u>Examples of their work :</u>
For the past 30 years, IIDA has built its programs on a foundation of dialogue, ensuring that every initiative is rooted in community engagement. IIDA aims for agreements stemming from inclusive discussions by mapping disputes and local populations before any project begins. This ensures that all actions consider the needs of the people, that businesses involved come from the community, and that every individual feels ownership over the projects being implemented.

Some challenges can be internally solved, such as the disruption of natural watercourses. In cities where IIDA operates, such as Merca—a coastal city nestled between the mountains and the sea—seasonal rains bring a flow of thick, red mud. Traditionally, this was managed by maintaining clear water channels and educating people, particularly through schools, on proper waste disposal. IIDA has integrated traditional wisdom and practices into its hygiene awareness campaigns and projects like Food for Work, where food assistance was provided in exchange for community-driven city cleaning efforts in public gathering spaces.

➤ RIKO, Denmark

RIKO aims to **lead informed debates** and **bring awareness** of the climate and conflict nexus in order for it to be **included in education and in political agendas,** brought before the Danish parliament. RIKO has created videos and materials used in schools to facilitate the understanding of the complex relationship between climate change and conflict. RIKO also produced a research report on the links between climate change and conflict.

➤ International Alert, UK

International Alert implements **programmes in partnership with local climate change organisations** that aim for climate adaptation efforts to deliver on peace positive outcomes. Their activities centre on advocacy through conferences and publications. Their publications for example include a step-by-step guide on how peacebuilding programmes can incorporate environmental considerations in design and implementation.

Examples of their work :

One project focuses on framing climate change impacts and climate action as an entry point for peacebuilding. Through community and county (Kenya) and state (Nigeria) engagements, they explore to what extent and how climate change can bring people together who otherwise would be reluctant to.

Their work gives importance to multi-sectoral partnerships and integrated approaches. One such project is the Water Peace and Security (WPS) partnership addressing water related security risks. The WPS brings together ecological analysts, hydrologists, security analysts, and conservation practitioners.

➤ FriEnt, The Working Group on Peace and Development, Germany

FriEnt aims to **facilitate understanding of the complexity of conflict-sensitive climate policy** and environmentally/climate-sensitive peacebuilding, to promote knowledge about climate finance which accounts for peacebuilding efforts and conversely. At the same time FriEnt aims to **bridge experiences** from land resource management, transitional justice, business, and peace. This multi-versed experience has allowed them to produce multiple guides and case studies.

➤ Sustainable Cooperation for Peace & Security, Italy

SCPS research focuses mostly on the **Euromed region** and resulted in a **guide connecting climate change and migration** focusing also on climate refugees' figures. This is then used to raise awareness on climate change, its nexus with conflicts, its consequences, and the human safety of young climate activists in dangerous countries.

➤ Search for Common Ground, USA

Search is a peacebuilding organisation specialised in **conflict transformation** and in **bringing people together across divides**. On climate, Search works on the intersection between peace, climate and natural resources both at the policy and programmatic levels.

Their focus on advocacy is at the European Union and global levels, pushing for sustainable business practices, and the consideration of conflict in climate finance, to drive the Green Transition.

Examples of their work :

In the Sahel, Search supports local resilience to climate change effects, by ensuring that humanitarian aid, economic development initiatives or infrastructure building projects are conflict sensitive and have peace dividends. In Guinea, Mali, Tanzania, Rwanda and Madagascar, Search has been promoting the adoption of sustainable business practices internationally, working with mining companies, local communities and authorities to promote good governance and manage grievances.

➤ Asian Academy for Peace, Research & Development - Nepal

Discover here how climate change in Nepal drives socio-economic conflict through their story on compounding challenges and emerging issues and how it drives migration.

VI. SDG16+ : EXPLORING INTERLINKAGES

Peacebuilding is intertwined with various factors, including climate, as well as gender, health, food security, and poverty. This is highlighted by SDG16+, which acknowledges that to achieve SDG16, we must also focus on promoting other Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Investing in the Climate and Peacebuilding Nexus will not be effective unless these other elements are also taken into account.

This has been elaborated upon in this paper in which the consequences of climate change on migration, disproportionate effects on women and youth, or again urbanisation have been explored in various contexts.

As the climate crisis transforms and expands, it compounds gender issues and creates migration.

▶ Climate, Peacebuilding and Gender

The rights of women to independence is in part, expressed through the right to food and resources. The climate crisis impacts food security and the viability of resources, but its **impacts are disproportionately borne by women**. As socio-economic inequalities manifest and perpetuate through the exclusion of women from the economic and political lives, the impacts of climate change affect women in a disproportionate manner by endangering their economic independence and thus security.

Further, as the climate crisis rarefies resources and strains households' incomes, **gender-based violence also increases**. Insecurity and stress exacerbates violence within households, where the women bear the brunt of a normalised expression of tensions. As resources become scarce, girls are more often taken out of school to contribute to the economic survival of the household, especially made difficult in agricultural communities by unpredictable weather conditions. In other instances, girls are forcibly married off to lighten the economic burden on the household.

All and all, the consequences of climate change do not weigh equally on the global or the national population, where women face exacerbated violence as well as economic hardship.

► Climate, Peacebuilding and Migration

As catastrophic environmental disasters make land unlivable, the communities which inhabit it are forced to leave. This worsening situation could **displace more than 216 million people** within their own countries' borders . The consequences of climate change on arable land range from rising sea levels, salification, to desertification and deterioration in the quality of soil. These have long term, at times **irreversible effects** on the arability and productivity of the land and therefore on the sustainability of life in it. In addition, as climate change amplifies tensions, these drive internal and external displacement. Between amplifying conflict and increasingly inhabitable land, **climate change is on its way to becoming a major cause of displacement.**

The displacement of populations also creates **additional tensions in the areas in which they settle.** As they need resources to live, the resources present in the region may not be sufficient for the additional displaced persons, and lead to further tensions between displaced persons and the local population.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Adelphi, Peace Paradigms, FriEnt, (2024), Upscaling peace-positive climate action and climate-informed peacebuilding: lessons learned and ways forward, Practical Note, Practical_Note_FriEnt_Final_3.pdf

Angelini, L., Brown, S., (2023), 'Peace' in the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus: Good Practices and Recommendations, EPLO.

CIVICUS, (2023), COP28: another climate summit in closed civic space: United Arab Emirates offers greenwashing and PR instead of climate solutions, COP28: another climate summit in closed civic space - CIVICUS LENS

Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding, (2020), Conflict, Climate Change and COVID-19: The Complexities of Somalia: CSPPS Coordinated Response to Support Local Action during COVID-19: an interview with Somalia's CSPPS Member IIDA Women's Development Organisation, Conflict, Climate Change and COVID-19: The Complexities of Somalia | CSPPS

Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding, (2023) COMPOUNDING CHALLENGES IN CONFLICT SETTINGS: Local voices Reflecting on Climate, Peace and Security Interlinkages, White Simple Photo Annual Report

Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding, (2023), Compounding challenges in conflict settings, Compounding challenges in conflict settings | CSPPS

Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding, (2024), Briefing Paper : Gender and Peacebuilding Nexus, Briefing Paper : Gender and Peacebuilding Nexus | CSPPS

Civillini, M., Lo, J., (2024), Bigger share of COP29 badges for Global South NGOs upsets rich-country groups, Climate Home News, Climate Home News, Share of COP29 badges for Global South NGOs upsets rich countries

Cordaid, (2023), ADDRESSING THE CLIMATE CRISIS IN FRAGILE AND CONFLICT AFFECTED SETTINGS, New Cordaid COP28 Position Paper

Cordaid, (2024), COP29 Position Paper: Finance for Climate Justice in Fragile and Conflict-Affected Settings : CORDAID Position paper for the COP29 11-22 November 2024, Baku, Azerbaijan, COP29 Position Paper: Finance for Climate Justice in Fragile and Conflict-Affected Settings : CORDAID Position paper for the COP29 11-22 November 2024, Baku, Azerbaijan - Azerbaijan | ReliefWeb

Corporate Europe Observatory, (2024), Fossil fuel lobbyists eclipse delegations from most climate vulnerable nations at COP29 climate talks: Industry influx escalates call to protect talks from Big Polluters, Fossil fuel lobbyists eclipse delegations from most climate vulnerable nations at COP29 climate talks | Corporate Europe Observatory

Fan, D., Jiang, B., de Boer, D., Zhang, X., (2022), 10 Landmark Climate Change, 10-landmark-climate-change-cases_clientearth_compressed.pdf

Florian Krampe, Dylan O'Driscoll, McKenzie Johnson, Dahlia Simangan, Farah Hegazi, Cedric de Coning, Climate change and peacebuilding: sub-themes of an emerging research agenda, International Affairs, Volume 100, Issue 3, May 2024, Pages 1111–1130, https://doi.org/10.1093/ia/iiae057

GRET, (2023), In Forest Guinea, organised civil society to protect the environment, In Forest Guinea, organised civil society to protect the environment | Gret

Huchon, J., JIAGHO, R.E., BLEU, D.D., EPANDA, M., TRANSHUMANT PASTORALISM AND PROTECTED AREAS IN CENTRAL AFRICA: FROM CONFLICT TO PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE, OFAC - Studies

International Crisis Group, (2022), Giving Countries in Conflict Their Fair Share of Climate Finance, Giving Countries in Conflict Their Fair Share of Climate Finance | Crisis Group

Mackaill-Hill, H., (2023), Making climate finance fit for a world in conflict, Making climate finance fit for a world in conflict - International Alert

Maljean-Dubois, S.,. Climate litigation: The impact of the Paris Agreement in national courts, The Taiwan law review, 2022, 324, pp.211-222. Climate litigation: The impact of the Paris Agreement in national courts

Marquette, C., (2022), Mainstreaming environmental action in peacebuilding programming: Five key steps, Mainstreaming environmental action in peacebuilding programming:Five key steps - International Alert

Meijer, K., Ahmad, A., (2024), Unveiling Challenges and Gaps in Climate Finance in Conflict Areas, SIPRI, Unveiling Challenges and Gaps in Climate Finance in Conflict Areas | SIPRI

Reda, D., Wong, C., (2021) Climate Finance for Sustaining Peace: Making climate finance work for conflict-affected and fragile contexts, United Nations Development Programme.

Corporate Europe Observatory, (2024), Fossil fuel lobbyists eclipse delegations from most climate vulnerable nations at COP29 climate talks: Industry influx escalates call to protect talks from Big Polluters, Fossil fuel lobbyists eclipse delegations from most climate vulnerable nations at COP29 climate talks | Corporate Europe Observatory

Fan, D., Jiang, B., de Boer, D., Zhang, X., (2022), 10 Landmark Climate Change, 10-landmark-climate-change-cases_clientearth_compressed.pdf

Florian Krampe, Dylan O'Driscoll, McKenzie Johnson, Dahlia Simangan, Farah Hegazi, Cedric de Coning, Climate change and peacebuilding: sub-themes of an emerging research agenda, International Affairs, Volume 100, Issue 3, May 2024, Pages 1111–1130, https://doi.org/10.1093/ia/iiae057

GRET, (2023), In Forest Guinea, organised civil society to protect the environment, In Forest Guinea, organised civil society to protect the environment | Gret

Huchon, J., JIAGHO, R.E., BLEU, D.D., EPANDA, M., TRANSHUMANT PASTORALISM AND PROTECTED AREAS IN CENTRAL AFRICA: FROM CONFLICT TO PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE, OFAC - Studies

International Crisis Group, (2022), Giving Countries in Conflict Their Fair Share of Climate Finance, Giving Countries in Conflict Their Fair Share of Climate Finance | Crisis Group

Mackaill-Hill, H., (2023), Making climate finance fit for a world in conflict, Making climate finance fit for a world in conflict - International Alert

Maljean-Dubois, S.,. Climate litigation: The impact of the Paris Agreement in national courts, The Taiwan law review, 2022, 324, pp.211-222. Climate litigation: The impact of the Paris Agreement in national courts

Marquette, C., (2022), Mainstreaming environmental action in peacebuilding programming: Five key steps, Mainstreaming environmental action in peacebuilding programming:Five key steps - International Alert

Meijer, K., Ahmad, A., (2024), Unveiling Challenges and Gaps in Climate Finance in Conflict Areas, SIPRI, Unveiling Challenges and Gaps in Climate Finance in Conflict Areas | SIPRI

Reda, D., Wong, C., (2021) Climate Finance for Sustaining Peace: Making climate finance work for conflict-affected and fragile contexts, United Nations Development Programme.