



Environmental peacebuilding in the era of global climate change

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Course description

Transboundary Environmental Cooperation (TEC) refers to the process of working across national borders to address environmental issues that affect more than one country/sovereign entity. There is a growing literature on TEC and its potential peace-enhancing effects in post-conflict settings and post-conflict natural resource management. This field is called Environmental Peacebuilding (EPB) .

The course will explore the theory and application of the young and fast-growing field of EPB (especially in light of global climate change), its premises, case studies, challenges, and opportunities. The course will discuss the environment-conflict-cooperation nexus and delineate the impact of global climate change on environmental cooperation and conflict and vice versa. The course will also include a field trip to the case study of the Gulf of Aqaba. Student assignments will include a final research paper and presentation. The assignments will focus on the theoretical analysis of a case study.

Environmental cooperation includes the needs and opportunities identified by the parties involved regarding any given environmental topic. Cooperation can be case specific, targeting a certain shared hazard or natural resource, as well as overarching themes such as climate change or renewable energy. Environmental cooperation can be relevant in all conflict stages before, during, and after conflict and can include top-down policies as well as bottom-up initiatives. At times, coordination and shared efforts are the only way to properly manage transboundary natural resources and to reduce hazards that emerge from various countries. Tackling transboundary environmental issues can be a means to enhance collaboration between parties in conflict as well as a goal by itself. The field of EPB also assesses the potential 'spillover effect' of such cooperation to additional political realms and tangible peace dividends.

The course will include the following topics:

- Basic definitions and theories of EPB
- The evolution of the field
- The shadow side and pitfalls of EPB
- Sessions with some international leaders of the field including- Prof. Ken Conca, Attorney Carl Bruch, Dr. Tobias Ide. Dr. Mackenzie Johnson and Prof. Erika Weinthal.
- Research methods relevant to EPB
- Analyses of case studies from around the globe including Central and South America, South Africa, Asia, and the Middle East.

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Goals:

- To expose students to an academic framework used in the work of the Arava Institute which is both multi-disciplinary and inter-disciplinary
- To understand the complexities of environmental cooperation in the face of conflict and post-conflict conditions in a climate change era
- To develop critical thinking and analysis of the field and its applications
- To expose students to leading organizations and experts in the field of EPB
- To advance academic skills by including analyses of theories and case studies
- To practice creative and applied thinking using academic exercises

Grading:

Attendance and punctuality	15%
Quizzes	10%
Commentary prep	15%
Presentation in class	20%
Final assignment	40%

Course program:

Part 1- Definitions, theories, and the evolution of the field (1-5)

Part-2- Analysis of case studies, field trip in the area and presentations (6-10)

Part-3- Challenges and opportunities, summary (11-13)

Session 1

Basic definitions and premises- Why now? Climate change and environmental cooperation
Conca, K., & Dabelko, G. D. (2002). Environmental peacemaking. Woodrow Wilson Center Press.

Ide, T., Bruch, C., Carius, A., Conca, K., Dabelko, G. D., Matthew, R., & Weinthal, E. (2021). The past and future(s) of environmental peacebuilding. *International Affairs*, 97(1), 1–16. <https://doi.org/10.1093/ia/iiaa177>

Session 2

The evolution of the field- The environment and security nexus Homer-Dixon and Neo-Malthusian theories.

Homer-Dixon, T. F. (1991). On the Threshold: Environmental changes as causes of acute conflict. *International Security*, 16(2), 76-116.

Homer-Dixon, T. F. (1994). Environmental scarcities and violent conflict: Evidence from sases. *International Security*, 19(1), 5-40.

Dresse, A., Fischhendler, I., Nielsen, J. Ø., & Zikos, D. (2019). Environmental peacebuilding: Towards a theoretical framework. *Cooperation and Conflict*, 54(1), 99–119. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0010836718808331>

Session 3

Recent evolutions and theories of the field and the various facets of EPB (potential guest speakers: Mackenzie Johnson/ Tobias Ide)

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Bruch, C., Jensen, D., Nakayama, M., & Unruh, J. (2019). The Changing Nature of Conflict, Peacebuilding, and Environmental Cooperation. *Environmental Law Reporter*, 49(February), 10134–10154.

Ide, T. (2020). The dark side of environmental peacebuilding. *World Development*, 127, 104777. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2019.104777>

Session 4

Basic peacebuilding theories and definitions

Lederach, J. P. (1997). *Sustainable reconciliation in divided societies*. Washington, DC: USIP.

Mac Ginty, R. (2015). Where is the local? Critical localism and peacebuilding. *Third World Quarterly*, 36(5), 840–856. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01436597.2015.1045482>

Session 5

Research methods relevant to EPB (potential guest speaker Mackenzie Johnson/ Tobias Ide)

Barquet, K., Lujala, P., & Rød, J. K. (2014). Transboundary conservation and militarized interstate disputes. *Political Geography*, 42, 1–11.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.polgeo.2014.05.003>

Cohen, N., & Arieli, T. (2011). Field research in conflict environments: Methodological challenges and snowball sampling. *Journal of Peace Research*, 48(4), 423–435.

Session 6

Case studies- analysis – Asia

King, C., & Jaafar, H. (2015). Rapid assessment of the water–energy–food–climate nexus in six selected basins of North Africa and West Asia undergoing transitions and scarcity threats. *International Journal of Water Resources Development*, 31(3), 343-359.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/07900627.2015.1026436>

Tuo, Z., (2008). CASES OF LOCAL TRANSBOUNDARY ENVIRONMENTALMANAGEMENT IN BORDER AREAS OF THE MEKONG WATERSHED IN YUNNAN, CHINA

Session 7

Presentations of case studies. Each student choses one location and example of environmental peacebuilding case study from around the world and will debrief its conflict background, current situation, challenges and achievements.

Session 8

Case studies- Central and South America- Peru and Ecuador

Alcalde, M., Ponce, C. F., & Curonisy, Y. (2005). Peace Parks in the Cordillera del Cóndor Mountain Range and Biodiversity Conservation Corridor. *Environment and Security Project Report*.

Barquet, K. (2015). “Yes to Peace”? Environmental peacemaking and transboundary conservation in Central America. *Geoforum*, 63, 14–24.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.geoforum.2015.05.011>

King, B., & Wilcox, S. (2008). Peace Parks and jaguar trails: Transboundary conservation in a globalizing world. *GeoJournal*, 71(4), 221–231. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10708-008-9158-4>

Session 9

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Case studies- Cyprus

Akçali, E., & Antonsich, M. (2009). "Nature knows no boundaries": a critical reading of UNDP environmental peacemaking in Cyprus. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 99, 940-947.

Stephane Jarraud, N., & Lordos, A. (2012). Participatory approaches to environmental conflict resolution in Cyprus. *Conflict Resolution Quarterly*, 29(3), 261–281.

Session 10

Case studies- the Middel East- Israel and Jordan

Field trip to Eilat to hear about municipal and scientific cross-border cooperation with Jordan.

Arieli, T., & Cohen, N. (2013). Policy entrepreneurs and post-conflict cross-border cooperation: A conceptual framework and the Israeli-Jordanian case. *Policy Sciences*, 46(3), 237–256. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11077-012-9171-9>

Feitelson, E., & Levy, N. (2006). The environmental aspects of reterritorialization: Environmental facets of Israeli-Arab agreements. *Political Geography*, 25(4), 459–477. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.polgeo.2006.04.001>

Kedem, R., Feitelson, E., Halasah, S., & Teff-Seker Y. (2023). Towards a typology of environmental cooperation in post-conflict, The Jordanian-Israeli case study. *Global Environmental Politics*.

Session 11

Case studies- South Africa- Peace Parks

Chifamba, E. (2012). Transboundary natural resource management and distribution of rights and benefits to local communities on the Zimbabwe–South Africa border. *Journal of Sustainable Development in Africa*, 14(6), 233–251.

Griffiths, I. L. (1995). African boundaries and national parks. *The Peaceful Management of Transboundary Resources*, 357–370.

Session 12

Challenges, opportunities, and good practices (potential guest speaker Ken Conca)

Portman, M. E., & Teff-Seker, Y. (2017). Factors of success and failure for transboundary environmental cooperation: projects in the Gulf of Aqaba. *Journal of Environmental Policy and Planning*, 19(6), 810–826. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1523908X.2017.1292873>

Martin, A., Rutagarama, E., Cascão, A., Gray, M., & Chhotray, V. (2011). Understanding the co-existence of conflict and cooperation: Transboundary ecosystem management in the virunga massif. *Journal of Peace Research*, 48(5), 621–635. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0022343311412410>

Session 13

Course summary and reflection

Krampe, F., Hegazi, F., & VanDeveer, S. D. (2021). Sustaining peace through better resource governance: Three potential mechanisms for environmental peacebuilding. *World Development*, 144(February 2018). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2021.105508>