



# Women and Natural Resources

## Unlocking the Peacebuilding Potential



*Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.*

United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office and United Nations Development Programme

## About this report

This report focuses on the relationship between women and natural resources in conflict-affected settings, and discusses how the management of natural resources can be used to enhance women's engagement and empowerment in peacebuilding processes. Part I of the report examines the relationship between women and natural resources in peacebuilding contexts, reviewing key issues across three main categories of resources: land, renewable and extractive resources. Part II discusses entry points for peacebuilding practitioners to address risks and opportunities related to women and natural resource management, focusing on political participation, protection and economic empowerment.

This report was developed by a dedicated team comprised of UNEP, UN Women, UNDP and PBSO, whose members contributed critical guidance and expertise to the project. Silja Halle of UNEP served as the team coordinator and led the report development process. The report was authored jointly by Adrienne Stork, Cassidy Travis and Silja Halle of UNEP. David Jensen provided guidance and inputs on conflict and natural resources linkages. Sarah Douglas, Tracy Raczek and Anne-Marie Goetz of UN Women offered their expertise on gender, peace and security linkages, while Henk-Jan Brinkman, Gérald Pachoud and Cécile Mazzacurati of PBSO provided key support and guidance on peacebuilding aspects. Leontine Specker, Glauca Boyer and Nika Saeedi of UNDP provided wide-ranging expertise on livelihoods and economic revitalization, as well as gender and peacebuilding dimensions. UNDP also contributed a number of case studies and was instrumental in linking the drafting team to field practitioners through its extensive network.

In addition to the report development team, the report benefited from the inputs and contributions of some 45 experts and field practitioners, who shared their knowledge and expertise through interviews as well as reviews of successive drafts. An extensive peer review process involving more than 20 leading experts in the fields of gender, natural resources and peacebuilding from the UN, international and national NGOs and academic institutions was conducted as well. A comprehensive list of reviewers and contributors is provided in Annex 3.

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## Foreword

Around the world, over half a million people die violently every year – more than one per minute. Inequality in access and benefit-sharing from natural resources is a major driver of conflict. As the global population continues to rise and the demand for resources continues to grow, there is significant potential for violent conflict to intensify in coming decades. In addition, climate change is exacerbating these risks and posing new threats to men, women, boys and girls in many parts of the world.

As primary managers and users of natural resources in many conflict-affected contexts, women have a key role to play in building peace. However, they remain largely excluded from owning land, benefiting from resource wealth or participating in decision-making about resource management. Excluding women is clearly a missed opportunity. Indeed, peace and development will only be achieved when both men and women in conflict-affected and fragile societies access and benefit from natural resources in an equitable and sustainable way.

As countries, regional groups and the international community work to define a new framework for development beyond 2015, it is clear that new approaches to international assistance, conflict prevention and peacebuilding are needed to ensure that the most vulnerable are not left out.

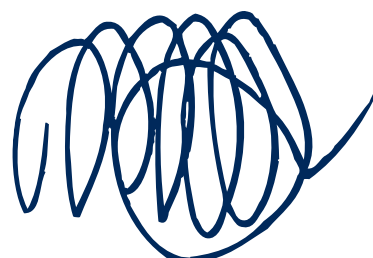
This joint policy report by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equity and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) analyzes how women's empowerment and the sustainable use of natural resources can be pursued together to help build lasting peace. Written for policy-makers and practitioners, it aims to contribute to a broader discussion about development challenges in peacebuilding contexts.

Thirteen years after the adoption of UN Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), investment in women as agents of change in post-conflict recovery remains inadequate. With this report, UNEP, UN Women, UNDP and PBSO invite the international community, national governments and civil society to close this critical gap. We must ensure that peacebuilding efforts fully include women, especially when it comes to managing natural resources.



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# Acronyms

AFEB	Association Femmes et Environnement au Burundi
AMIS	African Union Mission in Sudan
ANMUCIC	National Association of Rural and Indigenous Women of Colombia
ASM	Artisanal and small-scale mining
BRA	Bougainville Revolutionary Army
CFMB	Community forestry management body
CRL	Community Rights Law
CSO	Civil society organization
DAC	Development Assistance Committee (OECD)
DDR	Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration
DRC	Democratic Republic of the Congo
EITI	Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative
EU	European Union
FAO	United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization
FLEGT	EU Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade Initiative
GAM	Free Aceh Movement
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GDP	Gross domestic product
ICGLR	International Conference on the Great Lakes Region
IDP	Internally displaced person
NGO	Non-governmental organization
NTFP	Non-timber forest product
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development

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