

# Factsheet: EnvPB from theory to practice: Causes, strategies, and outcomes<sup>1</sup>

## Description:

Environmental Peacebuilding (EnvPB) has a long-standing history as a terminology and political process. One academic contribution to understand EnvPB as a concept was made by Dresse et al. (2019)<sup>2</sup>. This text proposes a framework to examine different initiatives of

EnvPB, illustrated through the following graphic, which was used by the facilitation team to analyze the inputs and experiences of CPS partner organizations and prepare the methodology of the exchange in Wittenberg.

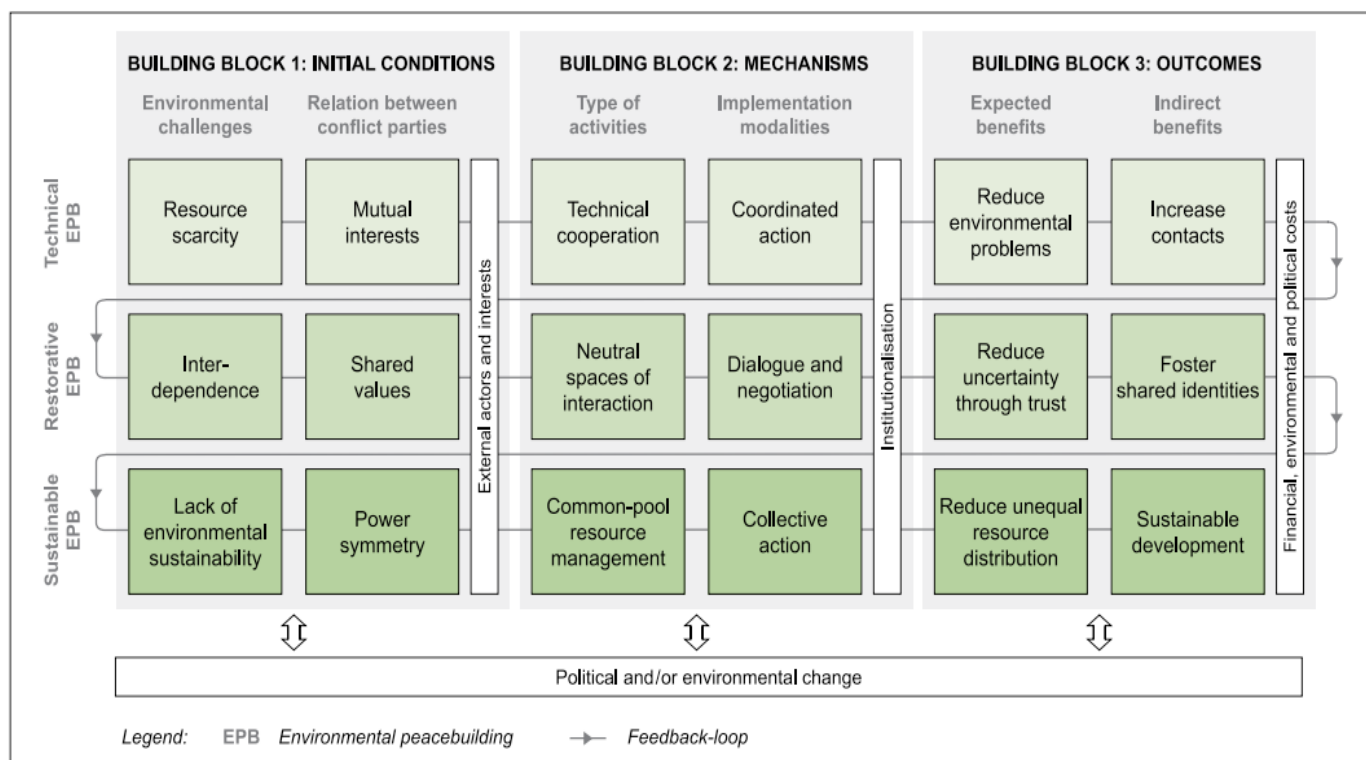
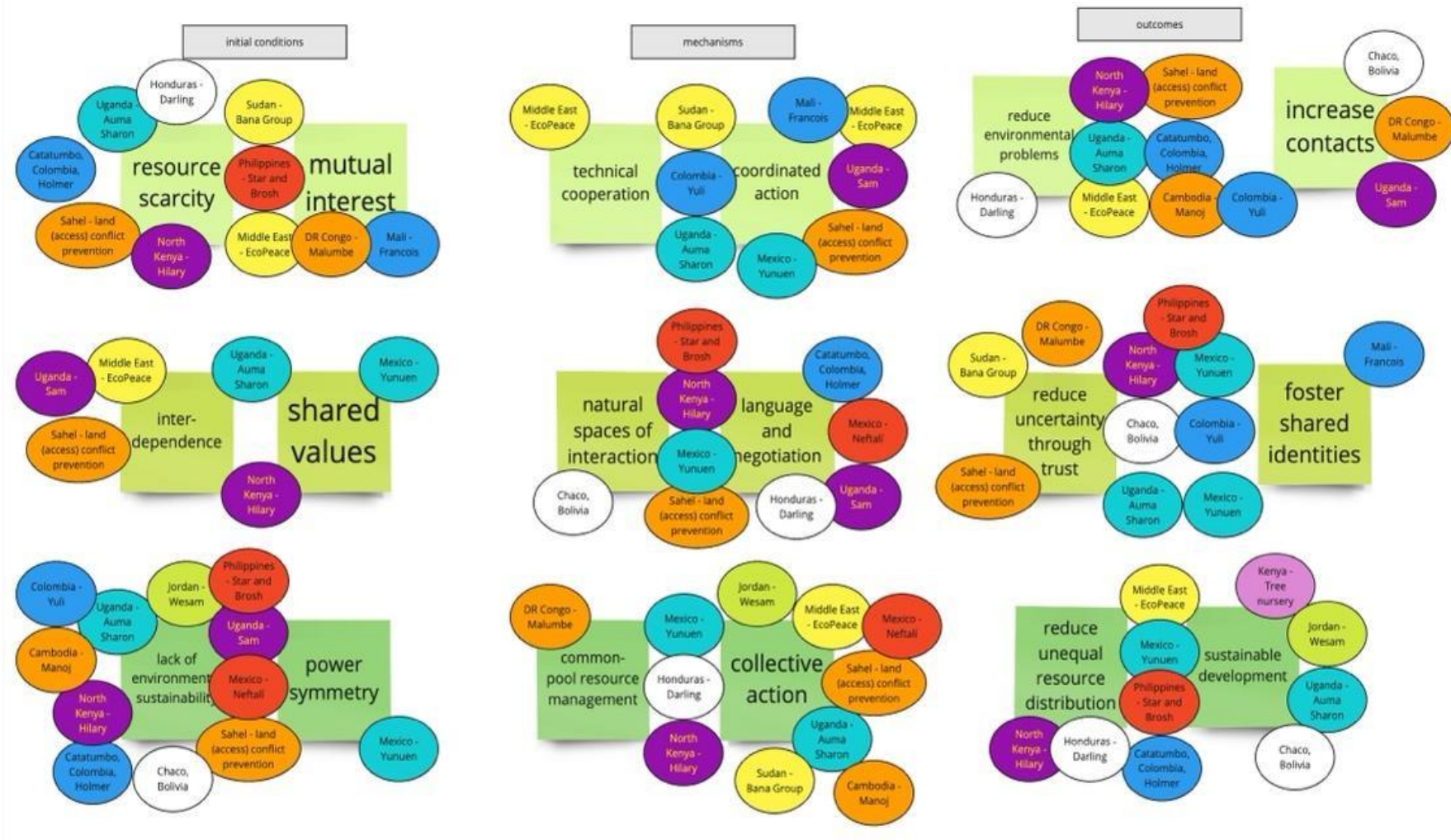


Figure 1. Environmental peacebuilding trajectories.

<sup>1</sup> This document was prepared by Lisa Piccott and María Ximena González. It is part of the results documentation of the CPS-exchange on environmental peacebuilding in Wittenberg in October 2024.

<sup>2</sup> Dresse, A., Fischhendler, I., Nielsen, J. Ø., & Zikos, D. (2019). Environmental peacebuilding: Towards a theoretical framework. *Cooperation and Conflict*, 54(1), 99–119.

The following graphic illustrates the degree of overlap between the projects of the CPS partner organizations and the categories suggested by the authors. This allows us to identify projects that are facing similar initial conditions or causes, implementing similar or different mechanisms or strategies, and transforming these situations to achieve positive outcomes.



In addition, the nearly one-year online exchange, as well as the physical meeting in Lutherstadt-Wittenberg, demonstrated that most CPS partner organizations have developed and implemented additional mechanisms/strategies/solutions, which are not mentioned in Dresse's analysis. These include:

- Experience in context and conflict analysis, including needs-based project and programme design and a detailed and up-dated actor mapping.
- The special role of certain actors and partner organizations in transforming conflicts, such as the Catholic Church or traditional leaders.
- The inclusion of actors who are often excluded, such as indigenous and traditional communities, children, women, or youth.
- The special approach of international accompaniment (PBI) guaranteeing visibility and safe spaces for dialogue.

In short, the extensive CPS local experiences of peacebuilding, including western expertise but also traditional and indigenous knowledge, characterize and shape the mechanisms, which is a highly valuable contribution to transform socio-environmental conflicts. At the same time, the analysis has demonstrated that ensuring access to and use of natural elements, such as lands, rivers, forests, aquifers, animals, can bring together communities, individuals, social groups, institutions, international actors, etc. transitioning from a competitive mindset to a collaborative one.

**Note:** Please look the Factsheet “Mechanisms/strategies/ solutions” to get a complete systematization of the topic. Additionally, we invite you to listen to the second episode of the podcast series on challenges and solutions, in which we have included some other relevant aspects and the direct voices of the participants.

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