

One-Day International Symposium

‘Environment, natural resources and eco-tourism: tools for peace building, state building and sustainable development

The Balkans in Focus, with Comparative Perspectives

With Predrag Nenezic, Montenegro’s Minister for Tourism

29 January 2010, Columbia University, New York

Overview

The *Center for International Conflict Resolution* (CICR) in partnership with the *Italian Ministry for Environment Land and Sea (The Italian Ministry)* seek to engage a selection of high-level practitioners, academics and policy-makers in a multi-disciplinary exploration of key issues related to sustainable development, environmental policy-making and peace building in the Balkans. The purpose of this one-day symposium is to explore cutting edge issues in a multi-disciplinary and comparative framework in order to improve existing policies, strengthen activities where needed, and to offer comparative approaches and insights from around the world.

Environment, natural resources and eco-tourism: tools for peace building, state building and sustainable development - The Balkans in Focus, with Comparative Perspectives

The environment and, more specifically, natural resources are increasingly being used as key lenses of analysis in a wide range of inter-connected fields: diplomacy, state building and sustainable development. International and local actors alike are realizing the importance of leveraging the finite nature of natural resources to promote cooperation both during a peace process and in countries emerging from conflict, when nourishing healthy and strong state-society relations is vital for long-term, ‘positive’, peace.

By leveraging the potential unifying power of natural resources, a country emerging from conflict can also use these resources for long-term development and reconstruction. Indeed, the sustainable use of natural resources can provide a source of growth for emerging economies, just as eco-tourism can provide a sustainable financial stimulus, creating jobs, protecting the environment and enhancing the value placed on national cultural heritage.

Natural Resources and Eco-Tourism: tools for sustainable development in Montenegro

The international symposium will have a case study on ‘*Natural Resources and Eco-Tourism: tools for sustainable development in Montenegro*’. The session will explore the role that natural resources and eco-tourism can play in contributing to development practices that are both sustainable and inclusive. Furthermore, the session will explore the role that environment, eco tourism and natural resources can play in furthering constructive and strengthened relations with the European Union.

The Symposium

The Symposium forms part of The Fund for Global Environment and Conflict Resolution (The Fund) which is a joint initiative of CICR and The Italian Ministry. The central aim of The Fund is to enhance understanding of the global environment and conflict resolution in order to protect societies and the environment in a sustainable, constructive and peaceful manner. The Fund focuses on long term activities bridging the conflict and environment nexus in the Middle East, North Africa, the Balkans, Colombia and Peru. The Symposium will lead to a series of policy papers, academic research papers and provide the impetus for inter-disciplinary research projects.

DRAFT AGENDA (Subject to change)

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29 January, 2010

Room 1501 / School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) / 420 West 118th Street at Amsterdam Ave

- 9:00 – 9:30 **Breakfast reception 15th Floor**
- 9:30 – 10:00 **Opening remarks: Environment, State Building and Sustainable development**
- Corrado Clini, Italian Ministry for Environment, Land and Sea (*Confirmed*)
 - Aldo Civico, Center for International Conflict Resolution, Columbia University (*Confirmed*)
- 10:00 – 11:00 **Keynote Presentations: Natural Resources and Eco-Tourism: the case of Montenegro
Presentation and Q&A Session**
- Predrag Nenezic, Montenegro’s Minister for Tourism (*Confirmed*)
- 11:00 – 11:30 **Break: coffee will be served in the Kellogg Center Reception, 15th Floor**
- 11:30 – 1:00 **Roundtable: The environment and natural resources as tools for sustainable development
in The Balkans: exploring challenges and opportunities**
- Stephen Stec, Center for Environment and Security (CENSE), Environmental Sciences and Policy Department, Central European University (*Confirmed*)
 - Todd Walters, Executive Director, International Peace Park Expeditions (*Confirmed*)
 - Kimberly Corcoran, Environmentally Responsible Action Group (*Confirmed*)
 - *Moderator:* Gordon Bardos, Assistant Director, The Harriman Institute, School of International and Public Affairs (*Confirmed*)
- 1:00 – 2:00 **A buffet-style lunch will be served in the Kellogg Center Reception, 15th floor.**
- 2:00 – 3:00 **Lecture:**
- *Environmental Conflict Resolution as a workable tool for peace building and state building,* Lisa Goldman, Senior Attorney & Co-Director, Africa Program Environmental Law Institute (*Confirmed*)
- 3:00 – 3:30 **Break: coffee will be served in the Kellogg Center Reception, 15th floor.**



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- 3:30 – 5:30 ***Discussion Panel: Lessons Learnt and Best Practices – Environmental Diplomacy and Natural Resources: tools for peace building and sustainable development, comparative Cases***
- Carl Bruch, Senior Attorney, Co-Director, International Programs, Environmental Law Institute (*Confirmed*)
 - Sean Kane, Political Affairs Officer, Department of Political Affairs, expert on natural resources and environmental diplomacy. (*Confirmed*)
 - Jose Pascal da Rocha, Mediation Expert, School of Continuing Education, Columbia University. (*Confirmed*)
 - Reinaldo Rivera, Regional Director, Northeast/Caribbean Region, US Department of Justice (*Confirmed*)
 - David Catarious, CNA Analysis and Solutions, Afghanistan Expert (*TBD*)
 - Sunday Ochoche, United Nations Development Program (UNDP) (*TBD*)
 - *Moderator:* Marc Levy, Deputy Director of CIESIN (*TBD*)
- 5:30 – 6:00 ***Closing remarks*** from Corrado Clini and Aldo Civico
- 6:00 – 7:00 ***Cocktail reception*** with Dean Coatsworth (*TBD*)

This event is co-sponsored by the Italian Trade Commission and The Harriman Institute at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs