LINKING PEACEBUILDING AND HUMAN RIGHTS APPROACHES TO PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN DECISION-MAKING ON ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS
Prevention of destructive conflict

Peacebuilding approaches

Aarhus’s pillars

Environmental access rights

- Access to information
- Participation in decision making
- Access to justice

Aarhus’s objective

An environment adequate to every person’s (present and future) health and wellbeing

Building Peace

Resolving conflicts without violence
Peacebuilding is both the development of human and institutional capacity for resolving conflicts without violence and the transformation of the conditions that generate destructive conflict.

In this sense it is closely allied to the prevention of destructive conflict and is not only relevant to post-conflict settings.
Peacebuilding Approaches

- Facilitating situation/conflict analysis
- Strengthening capacity to absorb information and understand all the options available
- Building confidence and communication skills
- Creating processes to involve vulnerable and marginalised groups
- Improving capacity to facilitate and engage in dialogue
- Managing and resolving conflict
Legal empowerment + Participatory peacebuilding approaches

Positive change around rural environmental management

Myanmar
“[t]o be most effective, community land documentation activities should combine:

1) the *technical* work of mapping and titling community lands with

2) the *peace-building* work of land conflict resolution and

3) the *governance* work of strengthening land and natural resource management and ensuring intra-community equity.

Namati/ CTV /LEMU/SDI’s submission to the Independent Expert’s call for good practice examples
Pilot exchange for grassroots justice groups from Myanmar and China to Indonesia - network members shared experiences, interviewed staff and community paralegals, and reviewed strategic growth plans.

Among other things, participants came away with a better understanding of how to forge productive relationships with local governments - techniques that they are now testing at home.
**Participatory Action Research PAR**

**PAR =**

“participatory, democratic process that seeks to bring together action and reflection, theory and practice, in participation with others, in the pursuit of practical solutions to issues of pressing concern to people in their communities.”

Quaker United Nations Office - Geneva
Experts from China, Cambodia, Myanmar, and Laos visit the resettlement site of a dam project to assess impacts on the environment and communities.

The Role of Investors in Myanmar – The Case of China

- Build and use dialogue platforms
- Develop trainings / seminars for companies on engagement with communities:
  - How local communities see projects;
  - How to share information with communities;
  - The role of civil society;
  - How to partner with civil society;
  - How to prevent conflicts
- Engage local government strategically about concerns shared with companies
Peacebuilding approaches can support public participation in decision-making

Skill development for:

- Local communities
- Local and national authorities
- National/international investors

- Increased effectiveness of public participation in decision-making
- Helps prevent destructive conflict around environmental matters