ENVIRONMENTAL PEACEBUILDING:
COUNTRY CASE STUDIES

This series of 5 case studies documents CI’s on-the-ground experience with conflict and natural resource management, highlighting tools and approaches that CI and partners are already using to prevent or mitigate conflict in support of conservation outcomes.

LIBERIA

In Liberia’s East Nimba Nature Reserve, conflict emerged between local forest users and management authorities after the reserve was established without engaging communities. To resolve this multi-stakeholder dispute around rights to forest resources, CI is partnering with local organizations to implement a strategy using a Conservation Agreement model in which conservation investors provide a negotiated benefit package in return for conservation activities undertaken by communities. Following extensive community consultations, an agreement was reached by both parties securing ENNR as a strict nature reserve in return for compensation in the form of investments in improved health, education, infrastructure and livelihoods.

BOLIVIA

In Bolivia’s Carrasco National Park, a longstanding conflict between protected area management and local populations was resolved when both parties agreed to a formal “red line” boundary between the protected area and land for use by the local communities. Points to mark the agreed upon boundary of the red line were determined with GPS navigators to ensure consensus, while the path was cleared and marked with red paint by community members themselves. The community now cleans and repaints the path on annual basis, accompanied by a park ranger.

THE DRC

In the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), an armed rebel group known as the Simba Mai Mai has taken up residence in one of the largest and most biodiverse parks in the country, Maiko National Park. The group is largely financed by illegal mining, which has devastated the local socioeconomic setting and contributed to an increase in violence and corruption. CI is coordinating with stakeholders in the area to prepare land use plans which promote activities that strengthen the overall management of the land. True dialogue has been created to support nearby communities and engage the Simba in the process. One outcome has been the integration of ex-combatants as part of the park’s management and ranger guard force.
ECUADOR/PERU
The mountainous Cordillera del Condor region between Peru and Ecuador is an area that had long been contested, witnessing decades of periodic encroachment and active conflict. CI, working with government agencies and local scientists, carried out a Rapid Assessment in the region and confirmed its rich biological diversity and important role in maintaining the hydrological cycle that links the Andes mountain range to the Amazon. Independent, third-party science was used to negotiate the border’s demarcation and a peace treaty was signed in which both countries committed to ending hostilities and opening up new avenues for collaboration.

TIMOR-LESTE
In Timor-Leste’s Nino Konis Santana National Park, CI is working with three conflict-affected communities to establish a co-management model for the park’s abundant natural resources. The process for establishing co-management arrangements has proven an effective means of reducing conflict and fostering collaboration across stakeholders. For example, recognizing that traditional natural resource management practices in Timor-Leste often silence women’s perspectives from the decision-making process, we are helping to incorporate a decision support tool to ensure those processes are more inclusive of women’s voices.

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