Understanding Environmental Conflicts: Causes and Manifestations

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Abstract

Environmental conflicts relate to environmental resources and their exploitation and they come in many forms. This is because they are all attributed to different aspects of the environment and the conflicts also involve different players. This paper discusses environmental conflicts in respect of their causes and manifestations. The author argues that unless stakeholders fully understand these

conflicts in light of their causes and manifestations, they are unlikely to design conflict management responses that would effectively address them.

1. Introduction

The relationship between the environment and conflicts has been described as varied and complex, with causes of environmental conflicts varying across the globe and their manifestations varying significantly, such as control over essential environmental resources such as fossil fuels to struggles over natural resources at the community and/or household level, where conflicts can manifest in a variety of ways – from outright wars and even genocide to disagreements over natural resources.[1] Conflict is exacerbated by poverty and by political, social, and economic inequality among groups; addressing these issues can lower the probability of these conflicts.[2] This paper discusses environmental conflicts and it looks at their causes and the various ways in which they manifest. This is arguably the first step towards coming up with effective methods of conflict management.

2. Manifestations of Environmental Conflicts

Environmental aspects of conflict and the relevance of environmental concerns in connection to conflict has been the subject of research since the early 1970s and have remained one of the most prominent research topics to this day.[3] Conflicts of interest are primarily divided into two categories: those relating to access to environmental resources as a source of livelihoods and as the foundation for economic activity and those relating to what are known as side effects of economic activity.[4] Conflict, in whatever shape it takes, is likely to have a number of consequences (though at various geographical scales), including physical injury to persons and the natural

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[1] U Bob and S Bronkhorst, 'Environmental Conflicts: Key Issues and Management Implications' (2011) 10 African Journal on Conflict Resolution 10 <http://www.ajol.info/index.php/ajcr/article/view/63307> accessed 5 May 2022.
[2] Stewart F, 'Root Causes of Violent Conflict in Developing Countries' (2002) 324 BMJ: British Medical Journal 342.
[3] Hardt, Judith Nora, and Jürgen Scheffran. "Environmental peacebuilding and climate change: peace and conflict studies at the edge of transformation." Toda Peace Institute 68 (2019): 1-20, at p.4.
[4] Chapter One, Vatn, Arild. Environmental governance: institutions, policies and actions. Edward Elgar Publishing, 2015, at p.2.

resource base, as well as an influence on productivity levels and overall economic growth.[5] Environmental change might also lead to the progressive poverty of societies in both the North and the South, escalating class and ethnic divisions, undermining liberal governments, and instigating insurgencies.[6] This section highlights the various ways in which environmental conflicts manifest.

2.1. **Conflicts Relating to Access to Environmental Resources**

Environmental scarcities of arable land and water are progressively causing poverty, resulting in the loss of livelihoods.[7] Environmental conflicts are characterized by high levels of societal and ecological complexity and vulnerability, with some studies asserting that society and ecology engage in reciprocal feedbacks, a process known as "resource capture and ecological marginalization," as aptly captured in the following words:

> Resource capture occurs when the degradation and depletion of a renewable resource (a decrease in supply) interacts with population growth (an increase in demand) to encourage powerful groups within a society to shift resource access (that is, to change the resource's distribution) in their favour.
> These groups tighten their grip on the increasingly scarce resource and use this control to boost their wealth and power. Resource capture intensifies scarcity for poorer and weaker groups in society. Ecological marginalization occurs when unequal resource access (skewed distribution) combines with population growth (an increase in demand) to cause long-term migrations of people to ecologically fragile regions...High population densities in these regions, combined with a lack of knowledge and capital to protect the local ecosystem, cause severe resource degradation (a decrease in supply).[8]

Environmental resources have long been seen as a good predictor of the affluence of people who could make use of them. Therefore, access to non-renewable resources has historically been intimately related to development, and wars have arisen as nations have fought to protect or obtain

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[5] U Bob and S Bronkhorst, 'Environmental Conflicts: Key Issues and Management Implications' (2011) 10 African Journal on Conflict Resolution 10 <http://www.ajol.info/index.php/ajcr/article/view/63307> accessed 5 May 2022.

[6] Thomas F Homer-Dixon, 'On the Threshold: Environmental Changes as Causes of Acute Conflict' (1991) 16 International Security 76, 78 <https://www.jstor.org/stable/2539061?origin=crossref> accessed 5 May 2022.

[7] Ohlsson, L., Livelihood Conflicts: Linking Poverty and Environment as Causes of Conflict (Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) 2000).

[8] Ahmed, F., "Approaches to and tools for managing environmental conflicts in coastal zones in Africa: Challenges and prospects in relation to Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM)," *African Journal on Conflict Resolution* 10, no. 2 (2010), p.32.

control of these resources.[9] It is argued that strategies aiming at granting the poor more "environmental entitlement" (improved access and social justice) are necessary for the prevention of environmental conflict.[10] Arguably, no conflict management mechanism can work without first securing access rights to environmental resources for communities.

2.2. Conflicts Relating to Side Effects of Economic Activity

While access to natural resources and assets is important for achieving livelihood security, especially in poor communities and households that rely on natural assets for daily survival and livelihoods, livelihood activities have been shown to degrade the natural resource base, contributing to desertification, deforestation, soil erosion, declining water tables, and other types of environmental damage – that in turn affect livelihoods.[11] Furthermore, in vulnerable environments with limited resources, the lack of alternatives leads to greater environmental degradation, which leads to increased poverty and danger, contributing to what is known as the poverty trap.[12]

The plunder of Earth's natural resources by humankind is resulting in not just biodiversity loss but also significant changes in biodiversity distribution, composition, and abundance.[13]

Exploitation of natural resources has ramifications that go beyond the intended outcome, such as loss of biodiversity and pollution, which alter possibilities for others through altering the landscape and ecosystem dynamics, among other things.[14]

It is indeed these types of conflicts that have inspired the growth and development of environmental justice as a way of securing the environmental rights of affected communities.

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[9] Schwartz, D., "Environmental conditions, resources, and conflicts: An introductory overview and data collection." (1999), p.4 <https://na.unep.net/siouxfalls/publications/Conflicts.pdf> accessed 5 May 2022.

[10] Ahmed, F., "Approaches to and tools for managing environmental conflicts in coastal zones in Africa: Challenges and prospects in relation to Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM)," *African Journal on Conflict Resolution* 10, no. 2 (2010), p.33.

[11] U Bob and S Bronkhorst, 'Environmental Conflicts: Key Issues and Management Implications' (2011) 10 African Journal on Conflict Resolution 13 <http://www.ajol.info/index.php/ajcr/article/view/63307> accessed 5 May 2022.
[12] Ibid, 13.
[13] Henrique Miguel Pereira, Laetitia Marie Navarro and Inês Santos Martins, 'Global Biodiversity Change: The Bad, the Good, and the Unknown' (2012) 37 Annual Review of Environment and Resources 25, 26 <https://www.annualreviews.org/doi/10.1146/annurev-environ-042911-093511> accessed 4 May 2022.
[14] Chapter One, Vatn, Arild. Environmental governance: institutions, policies and actions. Edward Elgar Publishing, 2015, at p.2.

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3. Types of Environmental Conflicts

Environmental conflicts can take the form of political, social, economic, ethnic, religious, or territorial conflicts, or conflicts over resources or national interests, or any other type of conflict triggered by environmental degradation and characterized by the primary importance of environmental degradation in one or more of the following fields: 1) exploitation of renewable resources; 2) overstress on the environment's sink capacity (pollution); 3) depletion of living space.[15] This section highlights some of the key types of environmental conflicts.

3.1. Biodiversity conflicts

Conflicts between biodiversity conservation and other human activities can arise in every area and have a significant influence on socioeconomic and ecological aspects.[16] Managing conflicts between groups of people is inevitably a part of protecting biodiversity and natural resources. Conservation initiatives must master the art of avoiding and resolving conflicts over protected areas, animals, and access to natural resources if they are to endure the added stresses and effects of climate change and the pandemic.[17]

Some of the most critical biodiversity conflicts are highlighted below.

3.2. Land and Water Conflicts

It has been noted that Sub-Saharan Africa has a history of land dispossession and contestation, resulting in various types of inequalities and a skewed distribution of land resources, all of which have had a significant impact on the socioeconomic and political situations of many groups of people.[18] It has also been contended that although many of the issues surrounding land issues and conflicts are not new, they continue to evolve and become increasingly complex and embedded,

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[15] Mason, Simon A., and K. R. Spillman. "Environmental conflicts and regional conflict management." Welfare Economics and sustainable Development 2 (2009): 114-143, at 116.

[16] Young, J.C., Marzano, M., White, R.M., McCracken, D.I., Redpath, S.M., Carss, D.N., Quine, C.P. and Watt, A.D., 'The Emergence of Biodiversity Conflicts from Biodiversity Impacts: Characteristics and Management Strategies' (2010) 19 Biodiversity and Conservation 3973 <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10531-010-9941-7> accessed 2 June 2022.

[17] Crowdcast Inc, '"Conflict Resolution for the Future of Biodiversity Conservation" with Dr Alexandra Zimmermann' (Crowdcast) <https://www.crowdcast.io/e/conflict-resolution-for-the-future-of-biodiversity> accessed 19 August 2022.

[18] Bob U, "Land-related conflicts in sub-Saharan Africa." African Journal on conflict resolution 10, no. 2 (2010).

making it difficult to deal with them and calling into question the legitimacy of conflict intervention and prevention methods; the way in which these issues are addressed frequently fails to consider their major - and thus potentially recurring - causes.[19] Water resources are also depleting due to pollution and resource depletion, while demand for water is fast growing due to population increase, industry, mechanisation, and urbanization.[20]

In Addition to the foregoing, it has been pointed out that when it comes to land concerns, African countries confront an extra important difficulty, such as combating widespread land grabbing, which is becoming more common across the continent and is generally carried out by the economically most powerful groups, including government officials and politicians.[21] Land in Africa is never just a commodity or a means of sustenance; it has so many additional connotations, combining being a factor of production with its position as family or communal property, a capital asset, and a source of cultural identity and/or citizenship.[22]

Land-related conflicts and disputes occur at all levels: Conflicts between neighbours over field borders; conflicts between men, women, and generations over land rights; conflicts between pastoralists and farmers; conflicts between states and indigenous peoples; conflicts between businesses and local residents over mineral and other resource rights.[23]

The indigenous peoples' entitlement to their land is the main source of violent disputes. A lack of access to productive lands and a limited right to their natural resources may be as a result of the improper implementation of national legal frameworks, which can also cause lengthy and complicated land-titling and demarcation procedures, the fragmentation and loss of traditional land, discrepancies between the amounts of land titled to indigenous peoples and the land concessions granted to large-scale businesses, and other issues. The denial of this right has an impact on indigenous peoples' economic and sociocultural well-being because of their close link

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[19] Anseeuw W and Alden C, The Struggle over Land in Africa: Conflicts, Politics & Change (HSRC Press 2015) <https://repository.hsrc.ac.za/handle/20.500.11910/4404> accessed 1 June 2022.

[20] Ashton, P. and Turton, A., "Transboundary water resource management in southern Africa: opportunities, challenges and lessons learned." Wirkus, L (2005): 5-32, at 5.

[21] Lund C, Odgaard R and Sjaastad E, Land Rights and Land Conflicts in Africa: A Review of Issues and Experiences (JSTOR 2006), 4.

[22] Ibid.

[23] Lund C, Odgaard R and Sjaastad E, Land Rights and Land Conflicts in Africa: A Review of Issues and Experiences (JSTOR 2006), 5.

with their lands and natural resources and their reliance on them for both their spiritual and physical existence as a people.[24]

Water is widely recognized as the most important natural resource, supporting and preserving biological diversity as well as social and economic development.[25] The sustainability of water resources is threatened by certain natural phenomena and human factors which include, inter alia: the multiplicity of trans-boundary water basins; Extreme spatial and temporal variability of climate and rainfall, coupled with climate change; Growing water scarcity, shrinking of some water bodies, and desertification; Inappropriate governance and institutional arrangements in managing national and transactional water basins; Depletion of water resources through pollution, environmental degradation, and deforestation; Failure to invest adequately in resource assessment, protection and development; Unsustainable financing of investments in water supply and sanitation.[26]

Water is not only a fundamental requirement, but it is also at the heart of sustainable development and is critical for poverty reduction. Health, agriculture, energy, and biodiversity are all dependent on water.[27] Although it is obvious that water resources should be divided among many users, accessible water sources are rare and finite, and the number of consumers continues to grow. As a result, the only way to ensure that no one's interests are harmed is to collaborate and negotiate in order to support the sustainable management of water, as well as all other accessible natural resources that are intertwined with water.[28]

Water resources can only be managed successfully and efficiently when the entire river basin or catchment is the fundamental management unit, according to modern methods to water resource management. Moreover, since surface water and ground water are closely related, they must be treated as a single resource and managed as such.[29]

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[24] Lefevre N, 'The Human Rights-Based Approach to Conflict Transformation in Indigenous Contexts'<https://www.academia.edu/9964347/The_Human_Rights_Based_Approach_to_Conflict_Transformation_in_Indigenous_Contexts> accessed 21 August 2022, p.5.

[25] Ashton, P. and Turton, A., "Transboundary water resource management in southern Africa: opportunities, challenges and lessons learned." Wirkus, L (2005): 5-32, at 5.

[26] LA BANQUE AFRICAINE DDP and BANKGROUP A, 'The Africa Water Vision for 2025: Equitable and Sustainable Use of Water for Socioeconomic Development', 1.

[27] Mwanza DD, 'Water for Sustainable Development in Africa' in Luc Hens and Bhaskar Nath (eds), The World Summit on Sustainable Development: The Johannesburg Conference (Springer Netherlands 2005) <https://doi.org/10.1007/1-4020-3653-1_4> accessed 4 June 2022.

[28] Heyns P, 'Water-Resources Management in Southern Africa' (2003) 1 International waters in southern Africa 5, 7.

[29] Ashton, P. and Turton, A., "Transboundary water resource management in southern Africa: opportunities, challenges and lessons learned." Wirkus, L (2005): 5-32, at 17.

4. Factors Shaping the Course of Conflict

There are many factors that determine the emergence, persistence, and even management of conflicts. The understanding of these factors is essential in developing policies that effectively limit and manage conflict. The factors range from internal to relational and contextual factors.[30] The internal factors are factors that are structural in nature and relate to how the conflicting individuals and/or groups affect the course of a conflict. They include, for example, the level of economic development, cultural patterns, individual interests in the conflicts and decision-making institutions. These factors influence self-conceptions, identities, conceptualization of the grievances, goal formulation, and the methods for attaining the goals. The internal factors affect the level of participation of the parties in conflict management.[31]

The nature of the relationships between the parties to the conflict and how those relationships are interpreted by the parties may have an impact on how the conflict develops and is handled. Size disparities (group disputes), economic endowment (resources), coerciveness between the parties, and cultural norms of behaviour are some of the relationship elements. They also cover the type and level of cooperation between rivals in the social, cultural, and economic spheres. Because both parties are experiencing the burden of the dispute brought on by the lack of the other party's output, conflicts between groups that rely on each other's produce will be simple to handle.[32]

5. Causes of Conflicts

Interest conflicts can appear in many different ways. For instance, it may involve natural resources like land, food, territory, water, and energy. These disagreements might be over who should get resources, whether resources should be allocated, and how resources should be divided. Power and control of the resources are other potential drivers of conflict.[33]

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[30] Kriesberg, Louis, "Factors shaping the course of intractable conflict," Beyond Intractability. Available at <http://www.beyondintractability.org/essay/factors_shaping_intractable_conflict/> Accessed on 20 August 2022.

[31] ashley.faoliu@colorado.edu, 'Factors Shaping the Course of Intractable Conflict' (Beyond Intractability, 6 July 2016) <https://www.beyondintractability.org/essay/factors-shaping-intractable-conflict> accessed 1 September 2022.

[32] Callanan, G.A., Benzing, C.D. and Perri, D.F., "Choice of conflict-handling strategy: A matter of context." The Journal of Psychology 140, no. 3 (2006): 269-288.

[33] Humphreys, M., "Natural resources, conflict, and conflict resolution: Uncovering the mechanisms." *Journal of conflict resolution* 49, no. 4 (2005): 508-537; 'Natural Resources and Conflict | Helvetas'

Conflicts over identity are another issue. These are about the communities that individuals feel a connection to on a cultural, social, and political level. Status conflicts that concern whether individuals feel their traditions and social standing are respected as well as whether they are treated with respect and decency may occur. Differences in values, particularly those expressed in governmental, religious, or ideological systems, may also contribute to conflicts.[34] Scholars have stressed that human needs are among the major causes of Conflicts, arguing that deep-seated conflicts result from the lack of basic need for security, identity, respect, safety, and control, which many people feel to be inalienable. Therefore, if they aren't there, the ensuing conflict will persist until society's structure is adjusted to meet everyone's requirements.[35]

For instance, the need for identity has been described as a fundamental driver of intractable conflict.[36] People who perceive threats to their identities as a means of preserving their essence frequently respond in a very negative way to such threats. If identity conflicts are handled through interest-based negotiation, the resolutions are likely to be at most transitory since identity issues in particular are not negotiable interest-based conflicts.[37] Conflicts can be categorized in a number of ways. Sometimes an observer may think that the interests of the parties are incompatible but the respective parties are not aware of these incompatibilities. They might be latent conflict or evident, peaceful or manifest. Self-delusion, justification, ignorance, or information suppression might be the root of this. Such undetected or dimly perceived conflicts of interest are referred to as latent. Conflicts emerge when these opposing, unrecognised interests become aware and expressed.[38]

<https://www.helvetas.org/en/switzerland/what-we-do/our-topics/voice-inclusion-cohesion/conflict-transformation/natural-resources-and-conflict> accessed 1 September 2022.

[34] See Toolkit and guidance for preventing and managing land and natural resources conflict - World | ReliefWeb. https://reliefweb.int/report/world/toolkit-and-guidance-preventing-and-managing-land-and-natural-resources-conflict (accessed 2022-09-01); Brahm, E., "Religion and Conflict." Beyond Intractability. Eds. Guy Burgess and Heidi Burgess. Conflict Information Consortium, University of Colorado, Boulder. Posted: November 2005 <http://www.beyondintractability.org/essay/religion-and-conflict> accessed 1 September 2022.

[35] *See* Burton, J., Conflict: Human needs theory (New York: St. *Martin's Press), Springer, 1990;* Kelman, H., International Behavior: A Social Psychological Analysis (New York: Ho*lt, Rinehart and Winston), 1965;* Burgess, Heidi and Guy M. Burgess, 'What Are Intractable Conflicts?' (*Beyond Intractability*, 22 June 2016) <https://www.beyondintractability.org/essay/meaning_intractability> accessed 1 September 2022.

[36] Jay Rothman, Resolving Identity-Based Conflicts (San Francisco: Jossey Bass), 1997. See also John Paul Lederach, Building Peace: Sustainable Reconciliation in Divided Societies (United States Institute of Peace), 1998.

[37] Burgess, Heidi and Guy M. Burgess, 'What Are Intractable Conflicts?' (Beyond Intractability, 22 June 2016) <https://www.beyondintractability.org/essay/meaning_intractability> accessed 1 September 2022.

[38] Brahm, E., 'Conflict Stages' (Beyond Intractability, 6 July 2016) <https://www.beyondintractability.org/essay/conflict_stages> accessed 1 September 2022.

6. Stages of conflict

Conflicts are said to happen in cycles or episodes that can last anywhere from a few seconds to many minutes. Each episode affects future episodes as well as the outcomes of earlier episodes. The conflict episode model consists of six parts or phases.[39] The following explanation deals with just two people in disagreement, but the model may easily be extended to include more. The "latent" stage of conflict occurs if individuals have divergent wants, values, or interests. A "triggering event" that causes the emergence (or start) of the evident conflict may be necessary for the conflict to become apparent. Emergence may be swiftly followed by settlement or resolution, or it may be followed by escalation, which might turn out to be quite damaging.[40] The process of escalation, nevertheless, has a limit. Temporary de-escalation or de-escalation as part of a larger trend toward settlement or resolution are both possible. A stalemate, in which neither side can prevail, might result from an intensification of the conflict. If the pain of continuing the fight outweighs the discomfort of sustaining the confrontation, the parties are in what one observer refers to as a "hurting stalemate," which frequently provides an opportune chance for dialogue and a potential resolution. Finally, peace building activities aim to mend strained bonds with the long-term objective of bringing former adversaries together, if and when an agreement is reached. [41]

Some academics extend this list to include other stages. One author adds unsuccessful peacemaking attempts following the intensification and institutionalization of destructive conflict, particularly for intractable conflict. This later stage is strongly related to the hurtful stalemate.[42]

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[39] Louis R Pondy, 'Organizational Conflict: Concepts and Models' (1967) 12 Administrative Science Quarterly 296 <https://www.jstor.org/stable/2391553?origin=crossref> accessed 1 September 2022.

[40] Katz, N. and McNulty, K., "Reflective listening." Retrieved February 4 (1994): 2021 < https://www.maxwell.syr.edu/docs/default-source/ektron-files/conflict-resolution-nk.pdf?sfvrsn=4de5d71e_5> accessed 1 September 2022.

[41] Brahm, E., "Conflict stages: Beyond intractability (Guy Burgess and Heidi Burgess, Eds.). Boulder: Conflict Research Consortium, University of Colorado." (2003) Available at <http://www.beyondintractability.org/essay/conflict_stages/> Accessed on 23 August 2022.

[42] Ibid. Other scholars conceive stages of conflicts differently. Alker, Gurr, and Rupesinghe distinguish between six phases: dispute (equivalent to conflict emergence); crisis (equivalent to escalation); limited violence; massive violence; abatement (equivalent to de-escalation); and settlement. See Rosalia Rodriguez-Garcia, et al. "How Can Health Serve as a Bridge for Peace?" Available online at http://www.certi.org/publications/policy/gwc-12-a-brief.htm Accessed on 23 August 2022.

7. Costs of Conflicts

Conflicts inevitably have expenses associated with them. Conflict may explode into violence, bloodshed, and devastation when it cannot be effectively handled. Conflict expenses are frequently discussed in media reporting.[43] The most evident cost of violent intractable conflict is its human cost, which is exemplified by the loss of lives. Other less evident human costs include displacements, long-term wounds sustained by conflict, rape, or torture victims, and impaired people's capacity to make a livelihood. Trauma can also have psychological repercussions, especially in cases of violent disputes. Additional human costs include feelings of extreme anxiety, mistrust, melancholy, and hopelessness.[44] Secondly, there are a range of economic consequences associated with armed conflict, both as a result of the violence itself and as a result of the decisions made not to be involved in the fight. For example, mounting and maintaining assaults has immediate costs. There are additional ancillary costs, such as the loss resulting from the loss of labour, expenses resulting from lost production time, and expenditures resulting from damaged production equipment.[45]

Significant environmental devastation is another frequent side effect of conflict. It is challenging to defend environmental preservation when there are other, more pressing issues as a result of the struggle. As a result, faster resource exploitation may cause significant environmental harm. The land and well suffer long-term damage from weapons, including chemical and biological ones. Tourism is also affected by conflict, some of which may have aided ecotourism initiatives.[46] The

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[43] Eriksson, J., Adelman, H., Borton, J., Christensen, H., Kumar, K., Suhrke, A., Tardif-Douglin, D., Villumstad, S. and Wohlgemuth, L., The international response to conflict and genocide: lessons from the Rwanda experience: synthesis report. Joint Evaluation of Emergency Assistance to Rwanda, 1996. < https://www.oecd.org/derec/50189495.pdf> Accessed on 23 August 2022.

[44] Ibid.

[45] Solimano, A., ed. *Political crises, social conflict and economic development: The political economy of the Andean region*. Edward Elgar Publishing, 2005; Mueller, H. and Tobias, J., "The cost of violence: Estimating the economic impact of conflict." *International Growth Centre* (2016); Fearon, J. and Hoeffler, A., "Benefits and costs of the conflict and violence targets for the post-2015 development agenda." *Conflict and violence assessment paper, Copenhagen Consensus Center* (2014): 1-65.

[46] 'Environmental Conflicts' (ACCORD) <https://www.accord.org.za/ajcr-issues/environmental-confli*cts/*> *accessed 1 September 2022;* Mukete, B.; Yujun, S.; Zama, E.; John, A.; Tahle, M.; Lisette, N.; Bernard, L. Environmental Degradation in Conflict and Post-Conflict Regions. *International Journal of Environmental Protection and Policy* 2017, *4*, 187–195; 'How Does War Damage the Environment?' (CEOBS, 4 June 2020) <https://ceobs.org/how-does-war-damage-the-environment/> accessed 1 September 2022; 'Impact of Terrorism and Conflicts on Travel and Tourism - Unintended Opportunities' (Hotel Management Network, 8 September 2021) <https://www.hotelmanagement-network.com/comment/impact-of-terrorism-and-conflicts-on-travel-and-tourism-industry/> accessed 1 September 2022; Mohammad Sharif Karimi, Mohsen Khezri and Somayeh Razzaghi,

third consequence of conflict is that it may undermine the sense of community in an organization by harming long-standing connections. Fourth, those participating in conflict experience emotional losses.[47]

8. Benefits of Conflicts?

Conflicts are unavoidable and can be advantageous. They can jolt individuals out of complacency and inspire them to take the necessary action. Conflict might occasionally be essential to rouse people from problematic relationships or behaviour.[48] Land, riches, power, and other tangible material benefits are frequently the outcomes of conflicts. For instance, self-government in Africa was established as a result of the fight between African nationalists and the colonial authorities.[49] Similar to this, the first Gulf War provided the US a strategic edge in the Middle East and control over the region's two most significant oil-producing nations, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.[50] Conflict may also serve as the catalyst for a process where people come to terms with the fact that they have both shared adversaries and interests. People could start to feel strongly invested in their side's eventual victory as a result. Conflicts over identity, for instance, are perceived as a means of preserving self-esteem. Therefore, people are more willing to fight for it if their identity is more closely related to the organisation. Conflict's danger frequently leads to greater self-identities. Depending on the nature of that identification, this can be advantageous or disadvantageous.[51]

A disagreement of some kind is very frequently how social connection starts. As an illustration,

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‘Impacts of Regional Conflicts on Tourism in Africa and the Middle East: A Spatial Panel Data Approach’ (2022) 25 Current Issues in Tourism 1649 <https://doi.org/10.1080/13683500.2021.1931054> accessed 1 September 2022; Marina Tkalec and Ivan Žilić, ‘Does Proximity to Conflict Affect Tourism: Evidence from NATO Bombing’ (2021) 16 PLoS ONE e0258195 <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8528334/> accessed 1 September 2022.

[47] Kenneth W. Thomas and W. H. Schmidt, "A Survey of Managerial Interests with Respect to Conflict," Academy of Management Journal, June 1976; Maiese, M., "Emotions." Beyond Intractability. Eds. Guy Burgess and Heidi Burgess. Conflict Information Consortium, University of Colorado, Boulder. Posted: July 2005 <http://www.beyondintractability.org/essay/emotion> accessed 1 September 2022.

[48] ‘Session 5. Conflict Management’ <https://www.fao.org/3/w7504e/w7504e07.htm> accessed 1 September 2022; Jason S Wrench, Narissra M Punyanunt-Carter and Katherine S Thweatt, ‘Chapter 9: Conflict in Relationships’ <https://milnepublishing.geneseo.edu/interpersonalcommunication/chapter/9/> accessed 1 September 2022.

[49] Khapoya, V.B., "African Nationalism and the Struggle for Freedom." In *The African Experience*, pp. 139-167. Routledge, 2015.

[50] Duffield, John S. ""Oil and the Iraq War: How the United States Could Have Expected to Benefit, and Might Still." (2005).

[51] Brahm, E., "Benefits of Intractable Conflict." Beyond Intractability. Eds. Guy Burgess and Heidi Burgess. Conflict Information Consortium, University of Colorado, Boulder. Posted: September 2004 <http://www.beyondintractability.org/essay/benefits> accessed 1 September 2022.

lawyers collaborate when they discover one another on the defence team for the other party in a court case. When kids argue over toys, they frequently engage in social interaction that subsequently turns into cooperative play. Adults may also initially encounter one other in a conflict setting. However, when the conflict is settled, the parties can build trust and go on to communicate amicably. As an illustration, businesses and unions typically start out on opposite sides of disputes.[52] However, they take steps to settle their differences, which are resolved with the signing of the recognition agreement. Soon, they are both actively involved in advancing the interests of employees. In terms of the environment, this is also feasible. Communities that battle for a resource come to value it and hate its persistent scarcity. They are forced to the negotiating table as a result, where they may discuss and settle their conflict.[53] The drawbacks of disputes frequently outweigh their advantages. Conflicts cannot be avoided, but they must be handled well in order to maintain peace among the populace, avert bloodshed, and save lives.[54] Conflicts don't just happen by accident. They are greatly influenced by the context. Numerous outside influences, each with a different scope and impact, influence their course. The collection of other conflicts that overlay or have an impact on any specific conflict is a significant external factor. Conflicts inside the family structure are one example of an external element sustaining social institutions that differs from those on a tribal size. Another significant external aspect affecting the conflict is the parties' respective income levels. In addition, other issues like the technology supporting communication, transport, and manufacturing play a significant role in how disputes develop. Non-social environmental challenges include things like the climate, the availability of water and mineral resources, pollution, and the condition of the soil.[55]

9. Conclusion

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[52] Brahm, E., "Benefits of Intractable Conflict." Beyond Intractability. Eds. Guy Burgess and Heidi Burgess. Conflict Information Consortium, University of Colorado, Boulder. Posted: September 2004 <http://www.beyondintractability.org/essay/benefits> accessed 1 September 2022.

[53] Ibid.

[54] Gambari, I. A. Peace Management and Conflict Resolution: A Practitioner's Perspective. In *The State of Peacebuilding in Africa: Lessons Learned for Policymakers and Practitioners*; McNamee, T., Muyangwa, M., Eds.; Springer International Publishing: Cham, 2021; pp 277–292. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-46636-7_16.

[55] Bercovitch, J. and Jackson, R., "Negotiation or mediation? An exploration of factors affecting the choice of conflict management in international conflict." Negotiation Journal 17, no. 1 (2001): 59-77.

In order to minimize harm to biodiversity, human livelihoods, and human well-being, conservation conflicts are on the rise and must be controlled.[56] Conflict, in whatever shape it takes, is likely to have a number of consequences (though at different geographical scales), including physical injury to persons and the natural resource base, as well as a negative influence on productivity and overall economic growth.[57] Interactions with other sectors are rarely considered in development programmes that focus on specific natural resource sectors (forestry, livestock, water, etc.). A reasonable development policy must acknowledge conflict; ignoring discordant parts may win favour in the short term, but it will never result in long-term solutions.[58] In line with this, it has been argued that:

> Understanding natural resource management necessitates a multidisciplinary approach that examines a variety of interconnected and complicated processes: First and foremost, it is critical to investigate ecological conditions and how resources respond to natural and human-caused changes.
> The use, management, and tenure relations associated with resources are determined by their nature (e.g., density, volume, fluctuation) as well as how they are valued (by users, policymakers, or markets).
> Second, because they frequently involve a combination of different groups of local users (pastoralists, farmers, "original" inhabitants, migrants, the political and economic elite, etc.) and State agencies and officials, these tenure relations or property rights are in fact dynamic objects of intricate struggles between various stakeholders.
> Third, these fights are fueled by and result from local and national political processes that, in turn, are influenced by global discourses such as "decentralisation," "disengagement from the state," "democratisation," and "environmental degradation."
> As a result, in addition to these three sectors of natural resource management (production, property, and politics), the method also incorporates features from the national and global levels, with the main focus remaining on the local level where day-to-day management is practised.[59]

It has been pointed out that while social issues are sometimes overlooked in favour of environmental goals, this might cause certain actors to feel unfairly treated, which could jeopardize

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[56] Redpath, S.M., Young, J., Evely, A., Adams, W.M., Sutherland, W.J., Whitehouse, A., Amar, A., Lambert, R.A., Linnell, J.D., Watt, A. and Gutierrez, R.J., 'Understanding and Managing Conservation Conflicts' (2013) 28 Trends in Ecology & Evolution 100 <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0169534712002169> accessed 19 August 2022.

[57] U Bob and S Bronkhorst, 'Environmental Conflicts: Key Issues and Management Implications' (2011) 10 African Journal on Conflict Resolution 10 <http://www.ajol.info/index.php/ajcr/article/view/63307> accessed 5 May 2022.

[58] Blench R, Aspects of Resource Conflict in Semi-Arid Africa (Overseas Development Institute London 1997).

[59] Benjaminsen TA and Lund C, Politics, Property and Production in the West African Sahel: Understanding Natural Resources Management (Nordic Africa Institute 2001), 7.

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the conservation effort's goals.[60] Access to land, the management of wildlife, resources and benefits from protected areas, sustainable utilization, livelihoods, development, and social justice are all frequent sources of conflict.[61] The first step towards addressing a problem is to appreciate its causes and manifestations. There is a need for the stakeholders to identify the causes and manifestations of conflicts in the country if they are to put in place effective responsive mechanisms to address the same.

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