

DRIVER MAP

CONFLICT ANALYSIS

Conflict analysis is a critical step in designing effective and conflict-sensitive environmental peacebuilding interventions. The purpose of conflict analysis is to build holistic knowledge about a conflict, with particular attention to the underlying concerns and root causes of the issue(s). When used correctly, conflict analysis tools can help you understand the broader context, break complicated problems into manageable pieces, and inform interventions. Without sufficient conflict analysis, peacebuilding projects will likely overlook possible solutions, and may unintentionally create harm or exacerbate tensions.

This worksheet provides an overview and a step-by-step guide for using a well-known tool in conflict analysis. It is important to remember that this is one of many conflict analysis tools, and you should think about which approach(s) are most useful – and practical – for you. It can be helpful to use several different tools, then integrate their results to form a clearer picture.

DPSIR MAPPING

The DPSIR framework examines drivers, pressures, state, impact, and response. It is most commonly used in natural resource management and sustainable development work to explore interactions between human activity and natural ecosystems; however, conducting DPSIR analysis of a conflict context can help illuminate environmental components of the conflict and identify systems that may be influencing the conflict in various ways.

Applied to conflict settings, DPSIR tools can help analyze the impact of human activity on the environment (and vice versa) by considering how various socioeconomic, environmental, and political forces 'drive' climate change, fragility, and conflict. The DPSIR framework identifies pressures and shocks in a system, with a particular focus on structural dynamics that impact how those pressures and shocks are experienced and which outcomes they produce.

STRENGTHS and USES	WEAKNESSES and LIMITATIONS
• simplified model for complex ecosystem interactions, such that a (superficial) form of environmental analysis can be conducted by non-technical experts • emphasizes human activity in the environment, placing responsibility – but also agency – in people's hands	• no clear delineation of which drivers and impacts are most significant • the categories overlap – which is somewhat purposeful, but reduces the analytical utility of the framework • should be understood as a starting point to help conceptualize a system, not a thorough breakdown of each element

CONDUCTING DPSIR ANALYSIS

Step 1. Identify your conflict context.

Be clear and specific about the situation you want to examine, and make sure you localize your analysis in a particular place. (It can be a large area like a country, but you'll want to be able to point to specific actors, institutions, and ecosystems.)

Conflict Context: _____

(e.g., Western Sahara; apartheid in South Africa; or deforestation in the Amazon basin)

Step 2. Complete the table below to identify DPSIR factors.

What is impacting and being impacted within your area?

DPSIR Category	patterns observed in your conflict context
DRIVERS <i>What kinds of human activities are taking place that directly affect the socioenvironmental system?</i>	
PRESSURES <i>What are the results of the drivers you identified? How are they impacting societies and ecosystems?</i>	
STATE <i>What is the current 'health' of the overall system? Is the environment degraded? Is society at odds?</i>	
IMPACTS <i>What kind of results are we seeing from the state of the system? How is human behavior being affected? What changes are we seeing in the environment?</i>	
RESPONSES <i>What actions have been taken to try and redress the above concerns?</i>	

Step 3. Visualize on a flowchart.

If helpful, you can illustrate the causal pathway from drivers to responses. Several different visualizations exist in various project reports and review studies; you should use whichever best helps you understand the system and its impacts.

By including some feedback loops that remind us any human responses will set off their own DPSIR chains, the flowchart below partially overcomes one of the weaknesses of the DPSIR framework – which, at a superficial level, might encourage one-directional thinking about ecosystem interactions.



