

Are Peace & Justice Good for Forests?



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We all want peace, right?

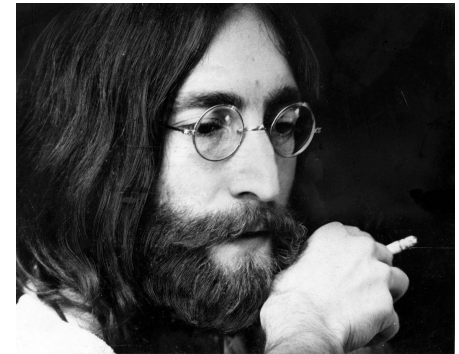
Imagine there's no countries

It isn't hard to do

Nothing to kill or die for...

Imagine all the people

Living life in peace... You...



(John Lennon)

Means versus ends

- Negotiations over SDG 16 were **highly contested***
- Agreed that peace, justice and forest conservation are **end goals of equal weight**
- **How** we pursue SDG 16 shapes its outcomes
 - Importance of **political ecology** approach
 - Who gains **power**, who is excluded?



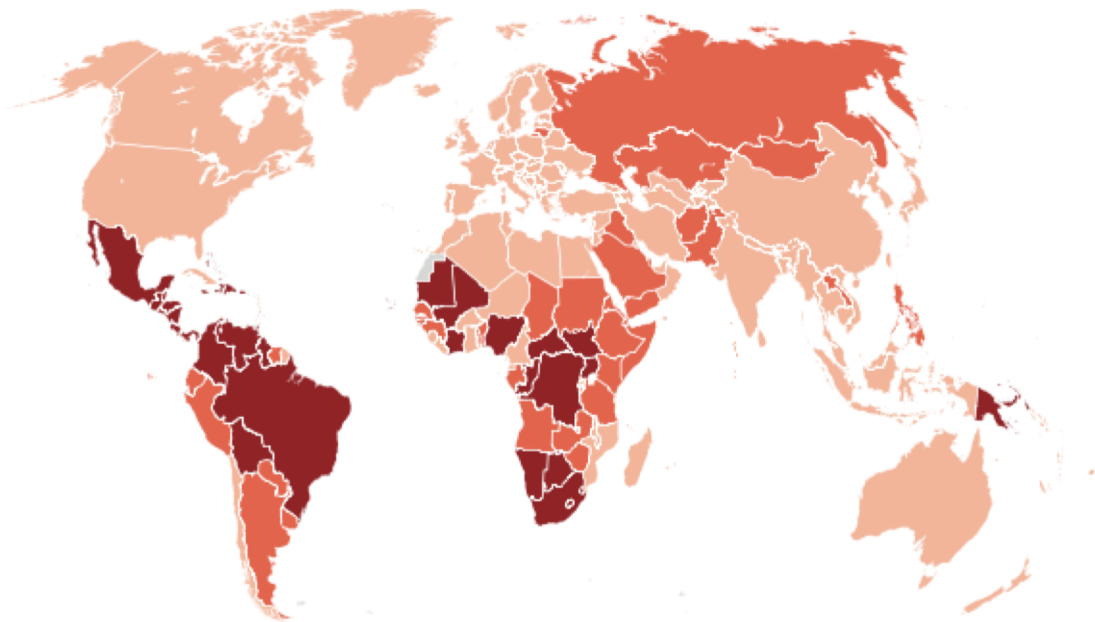
*(Slotin and Elgin-Cossart 2013)

Target: Reduce violence & armed conflict

16b Parts of Latin America and Sub-Saharan Africa had the highest homicide rates in 2014

Intentional homicides, 2014 or most recent year available (per 100,000 people)

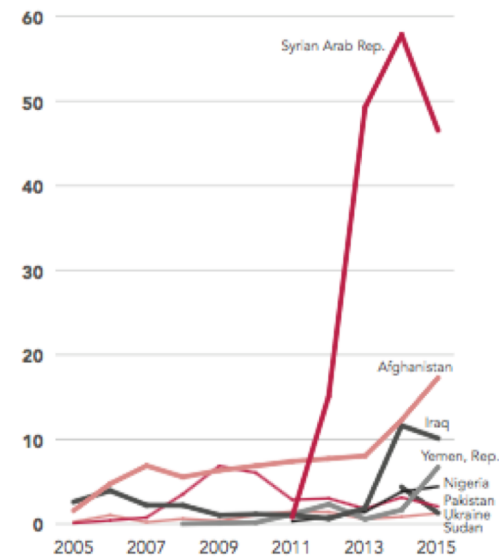
0-5 5-9 10 or more No data



Source: UN Office on Drugs and Crime, Homicide Statistics database; WDI (VC.IHR.PSRC.P5).

16c Syria saw more battle-related deaths in 2015 than any other country

Battle-related deaths in the eight countries with the highest totals in 2015 (thousands)



Source: Uppsala Conflict Data Program; WDI (VC.BTL.DETH).

Armed conflict, violence & forests



- Growing # of studies assess impact of armed conflict on forest cover
- Variable results:
 - Systematic review*: 12 out of 16 studies found conflict associated with decreased forest cover, 4 with increased forest cover
 - Conflict may drive/enable forest exploitation (illicit crops, cattle-farming, timber, mining, etc.) or forest protection and outmigration
 - It depends on, e.g.
 - Severity; extent & location of human displacement
 - Time-scale: Duration of conflict, duration of analysis (pre, during, post-conflict)

*(Baumann and Kuemmerle 2016)

Cause versus Effect?

- What causes conflict?
 - Struggle over land & resources
- What causes 'peace', as in reduction of violence?
 - Peace-making vs peace-keeping vs **peace-building***



*(Doyle and Sambanis 2000)

Target: Rule of law & access to justice



- **Rule of law** emphasized in international forest-related initiatives
 - As central priority
 - EU Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) prohibits illegal timber entering the EU
 - As pre-condition
 - Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+)
 - Zero deforestation supply chains
- **Equal access to justice?:** Who is included, who excluded*
 - Existing forest laws favor large producers, export markets; exclude domestic, local markets
 - Law enforcement, w/out law reform, entrenches inequalities
- Meanwhile, global forest loss continues...

*(McDermott et al. 2019)

Target: Inclusiveness & participation

- Growing global discourse on participation
- Expansion of community managed forests
 - Some evidence of positive impacts on **forest cover**
 - Effects on **livelihoods** mixed
 - Forests transferred often low quality, degraded, risk of elite capture
- States frequently maintain control, limit power-sharing



(e.g. Nunan et al. 2017)

Key messages



- Within the SDG system, peace, justice & forest conservation are **end goals of equal weight**
 - **How** we pursue them, whose interests take priority, will shape their impacts on forests and people
- Effect of peace vs violence on forest cover varies
 - What drives violence and how is it reduced?
- Current emphasis on 'rule of law'
 - Excludes informal markets providing local and domestic access to forest resources
 - **No clear correlation w/ positive forest cover or livelihood outcomes**
- Meeting all goals simultaneously requires attention to **power**
 - Thinking beyond the state
 - Ensuring local access to resources, markets and social justice