

Trends and Best Practices in Environmental Dispute Resolution in Latin America

Co-sponsored by Partners for Democratic Change and the Woodrow Wilson Center's Latin American Program and Environmental Change and Security Program

Complicated issues of economic development, social justice, and good governance are woven into natural-resource conflicts in Latin America, requiring sophisticated and inclusive dispute-resolution processes. Partners for Democratic Change (Partners) has been working in Latin America for more than 10 years to promote collaborative processes within government and the private sector to address issues of sustainable development, environmental protection, and public participation in environmental policymaking.

We invite you to a seminar with the directors of three of the Partners Centers in Latin America to discuss trends and best practices in environmental dispute resolution. **Pablo Lumerman**, director of Fundación Cambio Democrático, will discuss his experiences resolving mining conflicts in Argentina. **Mara Hernández**, director of Centro de Colaboración Cívica, A.C.-México, will outline the advantages and disadvantages of including government actors in environmental-conflict discussions. **Carlos Salazar**, director of Socios Perú: Centro de Colaboración Cívica, will explain some of the challenges of facilitating natural-resource negotiations between indigenous people and extractive industries. **Geoffrey D. Dabelko**, director of the Wilson Center's Environmental Change and Security Program, will situate these case studies in a broader political and environmental context.

MODERATOR

Geoffrey D. Dabelko, Director, Environmental Change and Security Program, Woodrow Wilson Center

Geoffrey D. Dabelko is director of the Environmental Change and Security Program, a 14-year-old nonpartisan policy forum on environment, population, health, and security issues at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, D.C.

PRESENTATIONS & PANELISTS

Conflict Mapping: A Constructive Transformation of Mining Conflicts in Argentina

Pablo Lumerman, Director, Fundación Cambio Democrático

In their experience facilitating mining conflicts, Fundación Cambio Democrático finds that the main problems center upon the information actors have when making decisions, the questioning of information-gathering mechanisms, and the selection criteria of relevant data. These factors complicate the formation of trusting relationships, which are necessary for promoting transformative social and political processes for sustainable development. In response, Fundación Cambio Democrático utilizes conflict mapping as an exercise to not only form a strategic analysis of the conflict's causes and identify points of consensus, but also to design and apply public policies and establish a foundation for dialogue and information-sharing. Ultimately, conflict mapping enables actors to build trust to participate in dialogue and public deliberation to constructively transform mining conflicts in Argentina.

Consensus Building in México: The Pros and Cons of Excluding Government Actors

Mara Hernández, Director, Centro de Colaboración Cívica, A.C.-México

Best practices in environmental conflict resolution emphasize the importance of identifying and including all relevant stakeholders participate in the process. Practitioners in the field are particularly adamant about including stakeholders with veto power, such as governmental actors. However, experience in Mexico suggests that consensus building among relevant non-governmental stakeholders, prior to negotiations with governmental actors, is a good practice when civil society is weak, distrust of the government is high, and the non-governmental stakeholders have a history of being co-opted by state actors. Nevertheless, the exclusion of government from the core group of stakeholders has several risks, including a lack of government commitment to implementing agreements, as well as deficient communication between governmental and nongovernmental actors.

The Facilitation of Natural Resource Conflicts between Indigenous Communities and Extractive Industries

Carlos Salazar, Director, Socios Perú: Centro de Colaboración Cívica

In Peru, as in other pre-Columbian civilizations, ancestral cultures have maintained a very close relationship with nature, valuing the conservation of natural resources for future generations. For indigenous communities, the land, water, air, and forests are also the foundation of their cosmovision, culture, economy, and society. If extractive industries are unaware of nature's significance for indigenous communities, they present a threat to the indigenous way of life in addition to the environment. The facilitation of both indigenous and industries' visions and perspectives requires sustained processes to build trust and solidarity that offers not only material benefits, but also demonstrates respect and cultural understanding.



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Partners for Democratic Change is an international organization that builds the platforms for communities, civil society organizations, government, and business to resolve conflict and advance constructive change. Partners Centers combine global experience and local knowledge with innovative tools and techniques to build sustainable solutions and effective leadership. Partners focuses on: Accountable Governance and Rule of Law; Inclusive Societies and Human Rights; and Economic and Environmental Sustainability. For more information, visit www.partnersglobal.org.

Fundación Cambio Democrático

Pablo Lumerman is the director of Fundación Cambio Democrático, founded in 1998 in Argentina as the initial Partners Center to promote change and conflict management in Latin America. Since then, Fundación Cambio Democrático has worked with representatives of all sectors and implemented innovative models of citizen participation to address complex social and economic issues and public policy. The Center specializes in utilizing Partners' cooperative planning methodology to engage all stakeholders in implementing and improving upon ineffective public policies, on issues including the environment, public safety, and youth leadership. For more information, visit www.cambiodemocratico.org/englishver.htm.

Centro de Colaboración Cívica, A.C.

Mara Hernández is the director of Centro de Colaboración Cívica, A.C., which was established in 2005 in Mexico as a national Center for Civic Collaboration, and serves as a nexus for NGO-government-private sector collaboration. The Center focuses on advancing democratic planning and decision-making, engaging more citizens and organizations in civic matters, and promoting more effective public-private partnerships. The Center focuses on resolving public policy issues through consensus facilitation, building an institutional culture of cooperative change management, and enhancing university change and conflict management curricula. For more information, visit www.colaboracioncivica.org/ANT008/index.php.

Socios Perú: Centro de Colaboración Cívica

Carlos Salazar is the director of Socios Perú: Centro de Colaboración Cívica, a Peruvian civil association with the mission of managing change and conflict in Peruvian society by

promoting a culture of dialogue and consensus. In doing so, it supports social equity, justice, governance and citizen participation initiatives, all in a framework of economically sustainable development. Since its inception in June 2006, Socios Perú has sought to develop its relationships with diverse sectors of civil society, the private sector, and the government in issues including: facilitation, dialogue and consensus-building; sustainable development; public resource management; strategic planning in mediation and negotiation; and conflict analysis and resolution. Through these activities, Socios-Perú seeks to create favorable conditions for investment and development in the country.



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