



Global Diplomacy Lab

## Improved paths towards environmental peacebuilding – Incubator Lab

A grassroots efforts approach to peacebuilding adapted to climate security

Hosted by GDL members [Vivian Valencia](#), [Diego Osorio](#), [Kyle Matthews](#) and [Stefan Cibian](#)

Location and date: Ljubljana, Slovenia, 29 October to 1 November 2022

Climate change has major implications for our ability to prevent conflict and sustain peace around the world<sup>1</sup>. Efforts to understand how climate change is fuelling conflict have focused on high-level exchanges, expert discussions and multilateral fora. However, a key perspective that has been missing to date is that of local communities and how grassroots efforts may prevent or deal with security issues exacerbated by climate change. By identifying communities that are successfully dealing with climate change-related conflict, we can distil best practices that may support other communities in their own efforts. Hence, we call these communities “lighthouses”, as they shed light on the pathways forward.

The Global Diplomacy Lab (GDL) is addressing the climate security challenge in its Lab “Improved paths towards environmental peacebuilding”. The aim of this Lab is to design a strategy (i.e. launch a community of practice) to empower local communities by creating a collaborative mechanism and maintaining a repository of local grassroots knowledge, expertise and civil society support. To achieve this, this Lab will take concrete steps to:

1. discuss the nature of the climate security challenge with a focus on the local level,
2. explore the current state/suitability of conflict prevention/resolution tools in the specific context of climate-related conflicts,
3. identify communities/groups that have successfully developed and applied mechanisms to deal with climate-related security issues (i.e. lighthouses), ascertaining which tools or mechanisms are missing and mapping key stakeholders.

The key activities that are taking place in 2022 include an onboarding meeting, an online Fishbowl discussion, a search for lighthouse communities to showcase best practices, and an in-person meeting in Slovenia (see timeline). GDL members are in the driving seat of these activities.

During the **onboarding** meeting in August, members discussed the aim of the Lab. In early September, a **Fishbowl** discussion took place to discuss the status quo of “climate security”: how do different institutions and experts define it, what

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<sup>1</sup> <https://dppa.un.org/en/climate-change-multiplying-factors-lead-to-insecurity-millions-rosemary-dicarlo-tells-arria-formula>



do we know about the linkages between climate change and conflict, and what is needed to better prevent and manage climate change-related conflicts? Then, members take the lead in **finding lighthouse communities** that have successful experience of dealing with climate-related conflict. Lastly, there will be an **in-person meeting in Slovenia** to analyse and discuss ways forward to address climate security issues based on the evidence presented by lighthouse communities and to map what is needed to empower local communities to deal with this challenge, drafting and developing a sound community of practice to support this endeavour.

Timetable for events in 2022				
August	September		October	November – December
Onboarding meeting	Fishbowl	Topic webinars and identification of successful case studies and working group moving forward	GDL meeting in Slovenia	Finalise outputs (e.g. brief publication, strategy document)
<i>17 August 2022 – 2:30 p.m. (CEST)</i>	<i>7 September 2022 3:30 p.m. (CEST)</i>	<i>8 September – 20 October 2022</i>	<i>29 October – 1 November 2022</i>	<i>15 November 2022</i>