Science Plan

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Network for Education and Research on Peace and Sustainability (NERPS)
Hiroshima University
About NERPS

The Network for Education and Research on Peace and Sustainability (NERPS) is an international network of educators, researchers, and practitioners collaborating towards the advancement of peaceful and sustainable societies amidst global challenges. It engages with a wide range of stakeholders to identify research priorities and emerging issues related to peace and sustainability and implement innovative interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary education and research projects. Based at Hiroshima University’s Higashi-Hiroshima campus, NERPS also contributes to the promotion of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and serves as a resource hub for SDG-related activities of Hiroshima University.

“NERPS is an international network of educators, researchers, and practitioners collaborating towards the advancement of peaceful and sustainable societies amidst global challenges”

Hiroshima University launched a new long-term vision in April 2017 called the SPLENDOR PLAN 2017, which emphasizes the realization of a new philosophy of peace science—“Science for Sustainable Development.”

As a step towards meeting the objectives of the SPLENDOR PLAN 2017, the university established the Network for Education and Research on Peace and Sustainability (NERPS) in 2018. The main objectives of the Network are as follows:

- To identify research priorities and emerging issues related to peace and sustainable development;
- To co-design and co-implement innovative inter- and trans-disciplinary education and research projects on “Peace and Sustainability” in collaboration with a wide range of stakeholders;
- To collaborate with a wide range of local and international stakeholders, so that Hiroshima University, as a comprehensive research university, can contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to the creation of peaceful and sustainable societies in the face of increasing global challenges;
- To establish a one-stop-center for collection and dissemination of information related to university-based research and outreach activities related to the SDGs; and
- To coordinate university-based research activities related to the SDGs.
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Introduction

The international community has long considered peace and sustainability to be fundamentally linked. One of the earlier proclamations of this understanding was the 1987 Brundtland Report, which defined security beyond political and military threats to include environmental stress across local, national, regional, and global levels (UNWCED 1987). In 1992 one of the principles in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development was the acknowledgment that “peace, development and environmental protection are interdependent and indivisible” (UN 1992). The declaration also recognized the destructive impact of warfare on sustainable development and encouraged environmental protection during armed conflict. In the same year the United Nations (UN) also published its hallmark peace document, An Agenda for Peace, recognizing that addressing the sources of conflict and war would require the promotion of sustainable development for the environment. Later, the 2001 Earth Charter affirmed a global consensus on the “principles for a sustainable way of life”, including the promotion of “a culture of tolerance, nonviolence, and peace” and the acknowledgment that a right relationship with other life and the Earth is a component of peace. The UN adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development cemented the conceptual and practical nexus between peace and sustainability. As the agenda states, “there can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development” (UN 2015, p. 2).

The integration of peace and sustainability in the development agenda reaffirms that peace is not just the absence of war or forms of physical violence and direct conflict (i.e., negative peace); it is also the presence of conditions necessary for the flourishing of human potential by ending structural forms of violence (i.e., positive peace) (Galtung 1964; 1967). Positive peace is manifested in social harmony and cooperation, consisting of freedom from fear, freedom from want, economic growth and development, absence of exploitation, equality, freedom of action, pluralism, and dynamism (Galtung 1967). The articulation of positive peace develops the notion of peace into an increasingly pluralist and interdisciplinary concept (Richmond 2008). This holistic definition of peace resonates with current approaches to development. Development is not just economic growth; more importantly, development has to be pursued alongside the reduction of inequalities, climate action, and peaceful coexistence (UN 2015). This approach represents progress from previous misconceptions that sustainable development is only applicable to environmental issues despite the implications of development for human security (Vilela 2006) and environmental security (Conca and Dabelko 2002). In light of these discourses surrounding development there is now a growing recognition within both peace studies and environmental studies that preserving the environment for future generations contributes to peace (e.g. Kyrour 2007; Laszlo 2008; Richmond 2008). The introduction of the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) further sheds light on the importance of the peace-sustainability nexus. In contrast to their predecessor, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the SDGs embody a more concrete peace component by
“acknowledge[ing] the critical role of accountable governance systems that provide stability and protection for citizens” (Caprani 2016, p. 102). The poor performance of conflict-affected countries in the MDGs suggests that peace is a precursor to achieving development goals (Werner 2015). Specifically, Goal 16 (peace, justice, and strong institutions) is considered to be a “cross-cutting factor” that contributes to the implementation of the other SDGs (Allen et al. 2017). While negative peace enables the attainment of the SDGs, positive peace creates the conditions for maintaining the outcomes of implementing the SDGs (Werner 2015). The SDGs, therefore, offer a relatively untapped opportunity for advancing our current understanding of the peace-sustainability nexus. However, despite reiterations and refinements of the various components of peace and sustainability, the intersection of the two remains underexamined.

Aims and objectives

The overarching scientific goal of the network is to advance the current knowledge on the nexus between peace and sustainability by taking inter- and trans-disciplinary approaches. Major scientific objectives are to:

- Synthesize the current knowledge on the interactions between sustainability and peace (both negative and positive),
- Explore methodological aspects of studying the peace-sustainability nexus,
- Promote inter- and trans-disciplinary approaches and methods to co-design and co-implement research on the peace-sustainability nexus,
- Examine uni- and bi-directional causal linkages between peace and sustainability through case study analyses,
- Organize workshops and scientific conferences to communicate the findings to a wide range of stakeholders

Priority focus areas

To identify priority focus areas, over the past two years, NERPS has consulted with stakeholders (i.e., scientists, policy makers, and representatives from public and private sectors) through science-policy workshops. Based on these activities, the following priority areas are identified:

1- Regular systematic reviews of literature on the peace sustainability nexus,
2- Research related to resources in the context of the nexus (i.e., land, water, food, energy, fisheries, minerals, oil and gas, etc.),
3- Research on the implications of smart technologies (e.g., artificial intelligence, big data, internet of things, etc.) for peace and sustainability,
4- Research on the implications of migration due to environmental/climate change, disasters, conflicts, etc. for peace and sustainability
5- Research on governance-related issues (i.e., local, national, and international governance, institutions, justice, etc.)
6- Issues related to education for sustainable development and its contributions to peace and sustainability
Implementation

To achieve NERPS goals and objectives, currently six projects are developed. As the network grows in the coming years, we expect to add more projects. The ongoing projects are:

1. Systematic review of research on the peace-sustainability nexus
2. Promoting Peace through Shared Governance of the Seas: Can Regional Fisheries Management Organizations Manage Fisheries Conflict?
3. Peace and Sustainability in the Anthropocene - Meeting the evolving peace requirements of post-conflict societies
4. Protected Area Management & Natural Resource Governance: Exploring Pathways for Environmental Sustainability & Peacebuilding
5. ICT-Mediated and Digital-Technologies for Resilience of Cities (IDRC): Sustainability Pathways to meet Positive Peace
6. Sustainable Peace and Peaceful Sustainability in Conflict-Affected Societies

Details related to each project are explained in the following sections.
Project #1: Systematic review of research on the peace-sustainability nexus

Names of project leader and main collaborators:

Project Leader: Ayyoob Sharifi, Ph.D.
Collaborators: Dahlia Simangan, Ph.D.; Shinji Kaneko, Ph.D., and other NERPS members

Geographic focus of the project:

Global

Main SDGs related to the project:

Summary:

Over the past 2-3 decades a large body of research has been published on various issues related to the peace-sustainability nexus. This project aims to regularly synthesize the existing knowledge through science mapping and systematic literature reviews. Systematic literature reviews will be used to provide detailed analysis of uni- and bi-directional linkages between peace and sustainability. In addition, bibliometric analyses and science mapping methods will be used to visualize the overall structure of a research on the nexus and identify major themes and sub-themes that have structured
its evolution. These methods allow us to present the complex thematic inter-relationships in a simple manner. Results of these review activities can help better understand the landscape of research on the peace-sustainability nexus, to expand the current knowledge about the nexus, to identify well-developed research areas, and to understand emerging and under-studied research themes that need further attention. Furthermore, results can also be used by interested researchers and policy makers as a point of reference when navigating the field.

**Major short-, medium-, and long-term objectives:**

**Short-term (until March 2021):**
- Science mapping and bibliometric analysis of research on the nexus between positive peace and sustainability;
- Science mapping and bibliometric analysis of research on the nexus of negative peace and climate change.

**Medium-term (until March 2022):**
- Systematic review of literature on the nexus of positive peace and sustainability;
- Systematic review of literature on the nexus of negative peace and climate change.

**Long-term (until March 2024):**
- More detailed and specific reviews related to the NERPS priority research areas and their links to the nexus (i.e., resources, digital technologies, migration, governance, education)

**Main methods for meeting the objectives:**

**Short-term (until March 2021):**
- Science mapping and bibliographic analysis using text mining software tools such as VOSviewer and SciMAT

**Medium- and long-term (until March 2022):**
- Systematic literature reviews using the PRISMA framework

**Relevance to the peace-sustainability nexus:**

The importance of investigating interactions between positive peace and sustainability is discussed in the Introduction. Focus on climate change is also critical since addressing climate change issues is essential for achieving global sustainability and avoiding conditions that may undermine peace. Climate change is increasingly recognized as a threat multiplier with the potential to undermine global peace and security (Mach, Kraan et al. 2019). Contrary to the traditional framing of security, which is primarily concerned with military conflict and state survival, the post-Cold War discourse on security has broadened to include non-traditional security issues, including climate change (Anthony, Emmers et al. 2006). In fact, since the end of the Cold War in 1991 that was almost co-incident with the surge of interest in sustainable development and global climate change issues following the Rio Summit, a paradigm shift in the traditional notion of security has occurred (Koubi 2019). It is now
recognized that security threats are not just triggered by conventional geopolitical and territorial disputes, but environmental factors may also undermine peace and security (Koubi 2019, Virji, Sharifi et al. 2019). These concerns are substantiated by empirical evidence showing that climate-induced stressors such as drought may be contributing factors that affect the likelihood and duration of conflicts (Solomon, Birhane et al. 2018). Climate change may also indirectly contribute to conflict through, for instance, intensifying poverty and/or causing massive displacements of people (HRC 2019, Koubi 2019).
Project #2: Promoting Peace through Shared Governance of the Seas: Can Regional Fisheries Management Organizations Manage Fisheries Conflict?

Names of project leader and main collaborators:

Project Leader: Cullen S. Hendrix, Ph.D.

Geographic focus of the project:

The world’s oceans

Main SDGs related to the project:

Summary:

Are climate change and declining fisheries productivity likely to lead to a future of fish wars, or can existing fisheries management institutions evolve to help prevent large-scale fisheries conflict?

Writing in the Washington Post in 2017, former Supreme Allied Commander of NATO Admiral James Stavridis and Johan Bergenas warned “the fishing wars are coming,” with climate change further stressing the oceans’ fragile fisheries. The South China Sea, Persian Gulf, the North Sea, and even the English Channel have emerged as areas of concern.

While a future of fish wars is one potential path, there are other, more peaceful possibilities. Multilateral governance structures could achieve better outcomes, yielding better management of fisheries resources and building peaceful interactions around the resources. Creating coordinated, multinational maritime response teams for maritime policing and sharing information could help prevent fisheries conflicts. Additionally, regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs) could
provide governance and dispute resolution mechanisms. These mechanisms could close some of the pathways leading to fisheries conflict. In doing so, we will not just expand our understanding of the peace-sustainability nexus. We will also help productively manage resources that are key to the Japanese economy and national security, and are also a crucial source of food and livelihood for millions the world over.

**Major short-, medium-, and long-term objectives:**

Short-term (until March 2021):
- Compile a database of militarized fisheries disputes between sovereign states covering the period 1816-2010s and integrate with existing data sources on nonviolent conflicts;
- Begin coding a database of regional fisheries management organizations for their geographic extent, institutional characteristics, and resilience to climate change;
- Organize virtually-convened presentations and speakers for NERPS affiliates and members of the broader fisheries conflict community to facilitate knowledge sharing and catalyze partnerships.

Medium-term (until March 2022):
- Travel to Hiroshima (June-July 2021 and March 2022) for in-person networking and teaching;
- Compilation of geographically-resolved climate data;
- Analysis of combined datasets and submission of resulting manuscripts to international fisheries and international relations conferences;
- Drafting of proposals for funding.

Long-term (until March 2024):
- Publication of manuscripts cover the new data, resulting analysis, and broad dissemination using online media, direct engagement with regional fisheries management organization personnel, and government officials in the United States, Japan, and in multilateral fora;
- Secure funding for longer-term research on sustainable fisheries governance, including identifying and disseminating best practices in the design and reform of fisheries management organizations;
- Contributing to a sustainable future through enhancing governance capacity to manage fisheries conflicts.

**Main methods for meeting the objectives:**

Short-term (until March 2021):
- Extensive literature review;
- Database creation, compilation, and verification by issue-area experts and fisheries managers;
- Preliminary data analysis.

Medium-term (until March 2022):
• Natural language processing techniques for creating data on regional fisheries management organizations and their evolving membership and aims over time;
• Time-series modeling and machine-learning techniques for analyzing data;
• Integration of spatially-explicit climate data with newly created data on fisheries conflict;
• Engagement with stakeholders and partnership development.

Long-term (until March 2024):
• Project write up and continued modeling;
• Policy engagement via broad audience-focused writing, media engagement, and direct dissemination to stakeholders at management organizations.

Relevance to the peace-sustainability nexus:

Fisheries are a significant source of food and income security in both developing and developed countries. Capture fisheries directly employ over 40 million persons and support an estimated 160 million more in secondary (fish drying, processing, marketing) or ancillary (boat building, fuel sales) jobs (Teh and Sumaila 2013). Based on these figures, fisheries employ one in 25 working age adults globally (SDG 8). Moreover, fisheries are a key contributor to food security, with fish providing more than 20 percent of animal protein intake for over 3 billion people (SDG 2). While the majority of fishers live in developing and middle-income countries, the fisheries sector is an economically and politically important part of major power economies as well: Russia, Japan, China, and the United States are all among the top five countries by marine fish landings (SDG 8).

Globally, capture fisheries are in decline, with landings having peaked in 1996. In the aggregate, aquacultural production is offsetting this decline. However, many preferred and economically important species are unsuitable for aquaculture, at least at scales that would be necessary to offset losses in the capture fishery. Most fisheries are considered to be either fully or over-exploited, with catches routinely exceeding maximum sustainable yield (the maximum level of catch at which the fishery does not become depleted over time). And climate change is exacerbating this issue: The recent IPCC Special Report on Oceans and the Cryosphere in a Changing Climate suggests many fisheries that have historically faced high fishing pressure are anticipated to see their maximum catch potential curtailed significantly due to climate change. Forecasts show large decreases in maximum catch potential for the western Pacific, Indian, and eastern Atlantic Oceans and the South China and Philippine Seas. Catch potential is forecasted to increase at higher latitudes, with large productivity gains anticipated for the polar seas (including Greenland, Barents, Beaufort, and Siberian) as well as the Sea of Okhtosk.

These maritime spaces are already hotly contested, both at the regional level and between major global powers who have large far-ocean fishing fleets like the United States, China, and Russia. Already, we see evidence that fisheries-related disputes are causing diplomatic rows and endangering broader economic and diplomatic relationships. Fisheries conflicts on the high seas are one of the few scenarios in which the navies of competing powers are brought to the brink of engagement by the actions of third parties—fishing vessels—that they neither command nor control. Under these circumstances,
slight miscalculations or misunderstandings may spiral out of control, threatening peace (SDG 16). By fortifying the institutions of shared governance on the high seas (SDG 17), this project can address drivers of overfishing, build resilience to global environmental change, and promote peace.

**Networking plan and relevant stakeholders:**

To build successful transdisciplinary, multi-stakeholder research programs, diverse networks are fundamental. The networking plan is three-pronged: 1) engage NERPS researchers in my existing network in fisheries conflict research, 2) engage with both NERPS and marine science-affiliated faculty at Hiroshima University, and 3) deepen networks with fisheries-oriented organizations in East Asia and Oceania.

First, we will integrate NERPS-affiliated faculty (as desired by them) into the Fisheries Conflict Research Consortium (FCRC). The FCRC is a network of 30+ researchers and policymakers in academia, industry, and the nongovernmental sector that organizes and promotes research and policy outreach around fisheries. Convened by the One Earth Future Foundation, the network holds an annual workshop and has a demonstrated ability to produce timely, policy-actionable research on the causes, consequences, and solutions to fisheries conflict. FCRC members have recent publications in Nature, Global Environmental Change, Marine Policy, and other widely respected outlets. In addition to academic researchers, the network includes representatives of organizations like Ecotrust Canada, the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), Vulcan, SINTEF Ocean (Norway), and the World Wildlife Fund. Second, we will engage with NERPS faculty to identify relevant research centers and faculty at Hiroshima University. Third, we hope to engage researchers from Korea, the Philippines, China (geopolitics permitting), and Australia while in the region, either through in-person visits or online convening. These relationships will further expand the NERPS network.
Project #3: Peace and Sustainability in the Anthropocene - Meeting the evolving peace requirements of post-conflict societies

Names of project leader and main collaborators:

Dr. Florian Krampe, SIPRI
Dr. Farah Hegazi, SIPRI
Dr. Dahlia Simangan, NERPS
Dr. Ayyoob Sharifi, NERPS

Geographic focus of the project:

Global, but among others with case studies from Somalia, Mali, and Nepal.

Main SDGs related to the project:

Summary:

Challenges associated with peacebuilding in conflict-affected states and societies are rarely straightforward. Beyond dramatically reducing violence and preventing a rekindling/relapse of violent conflict, peacebuilding efforts seek to help societies and governments in post-conflict countries reset their internal relations on a peaceful path toward a more sustainable peace. The indirect, long-term effects of war generally compound difficulties in peacebuilding processes. These long-term effects of violent conflict relate to political, economic, and social aspects: lasting impressions of human rights abuses committed during wars continue to shape the relations among members of post-conflict societies for decades to come (Bar-Tal, 2007). Both socio-economic and political impacts challenge the stability and development of conflict-affected states for many years (Gates et al., 2012). The risks to public health are especially profound and disproportionately affect the civilian population (Ghobarah et al., 2003). Lack of sanitation and inadequate access to potable
water are examples of major sources of such harms and risks (Gleick, 1993). These environmental infrastructures are frequent casualties of contemporary violence (Sowers et al., 2017; Weinthal & Sowers, 2019). Environmental and climate change expose both post-war populations and peace operations to further risks, thus exacerbating the impacts of conflict even after active combat has long since concluded (Barnett & Adger, 2007; Eklöw & Krampe, 2019).

This project theorizes explanations for how environmental cooperation may facilitate processes of sustaining positive peace, providing examples to illustrate these mechanisms. The objective is to highlight that a peacebuilding approach that is relevant to the anthropocene needs to incorporate long-term ecological considerations. The project seeks to update existing peacebuilding frameworks, to meet the evolving peace requirements of post-conflict societies while at the same time tempering the human impact on the planet’s ecosystem.

**Major short-, medium-, and long-term objectives:**

Medium-term (until March 2022):

Research articles
- Simangan and Krampe “Peace and Sustainability in the Anthropocene: Implications for Post-Conflict Peacebuilding.”
- Krampe, Simangan, Hegazi, Sharifi “A transdisciplinary analytical framework of environmental peacebuilding”

Policy stakeholder presentations
- Japanese MFA and Swedish MFA.
- UN Climate Security Mechanism, New York
- Informal Expert Group of Security Council Members on Climate Security, New York
- Stockholm Forum on Peace and Development 2022

**Relevance to the peace-sustainability nexus:**

For the past decade, my research sits at the intersection of peace and conflict research, environmental studies, and international security. As such, my work is connecting closely to research theme 1 (Resources in the context of the nexus) and 4 (Governance and institutions, and justice in the context of the nexus).

The research plan outlined bridges these two research themes focus on the dynamics and foundations of environmental security and peacebuilding, as the link between post-conflict peacebuilding and environmental governance and natural resource management. To build and sustain peace we need to acknowledge and understand the long-term interplay of social, political, and ecological processes in post-war countries. As these processes interact and divisively shape the post-war landscape, it is essential to building a peace that is ecologically sensitive, while equally socially and politically relevant and desirable. Relying on qualitative methods, filed work, and elite interviews, my work explores various aspects of this research area, among others how the governance of natural resources and the environment influences peacebuilding after civil wars. My
work distinguishes itself through in-depth empirical research and thorough conceptional and theoretical set up. Overall, his work leverages an understanding of what works and how peacebuilding efforts can utilize their interventions to achieve long-term gains.

That said, my work is also engaging with research themes 2 (Digital technologies) and 3 (Migration). Working especially on climate security frequently engages with issues of migration and displacement. In our report on peacebuilding in Somalia, which was presented in the UN Security Council in February, environmental displacement and the social and political consequences plays a crucial role as it creates governance pressures that local and peacebuilding institutions are not prepared to deal with.

I am moreover part of the Mistra Geopolitics, a consortium that deepens the analysis of geopolitical risks and opportunities arising from three interconnected transformations: global environmental change, societal transformations towards sustainability, and the rapid deployment of transformative technologies. Within the second phase of this program I am collaborating with colleagues on New technologies as geopolitical shifters. Our project analyses how new ICTs, digitalization and AI used in low-carbon energy transformations are being made sense of by different international organizations and states in terms of opportunities and challenges linked to the SDGs, as well as shifting geopolitical concerns and prospects such as a shifting balance of power, new methods of warfare, arms controls and early warning systems, political economy divides, and alienation-driven political populism.

Drawing on this analysis, the project will map the environmental impacts of technologies such as AI or ICTS and examine how a technology like AI could be used to identify, analyse and forecast climate security and environmental challenges, key methodological issues and policy response options.

Networking plan and relevant stakeholders:

NERPS and Hiroshima University
During the project time I expect to deepen my existing collaboration with Dr Simangan, whose research interests are very close to my own. We have a joint paper under submission to ISA 2021 and I anticipate further developing our thinking on the interlinkages of peacebuilding and environmental sustainability.

I moreover look forward to exchange and developing joint research ideas with Professor Kaneko and Dr Sharifi. My initial exchanges in February 2019 were very interesting and I anticipate fruitful exchanges to further our transdisciplinary thinking on peace and sustainability.

I am especially looking forward to engaging further with scholars at the Graduate School for International Development and Cooperation. I was impressed by the presentation of colleagues in 2019 and would like to learn more about the ongoing work and see if we can develop collaboration between the school and SIPRI as well as with the Department of Peace and Conflict Research at Uppsala University, where I am an affiliated researcher.
Hiroshima Prefecture, NERPS and SIPRI
Since 2017 SIPRI has a cooperation agreement with Hiroshima Prefectural Government, focused on the projects to counter the declining respect for nuclear weapons, and seeing what lessons can be learned from the experience of countries that have terminated their nuclear weapons programmes. Building on this established relationship, I am eager to explore further collaboration between SIPRI, Hiroshima Prefecture and NERPS in the area of sustainability and peace – both linking to the ongoing activities within NERPS, but also to the work SIPRI is pursuing on the Environment of Peace 2022.

Japanese MFA
Over the past years I have worked closely with several MFA’s, especially the Swedish one. I am keen to develop the relationship with the Japanese MFA on their work and thinking on environmental security and climate security. Japan is frequently elected as a member to the security council, which provides interesting opportunities for NERPS and SIPRI to engage and inform important policy processes and provide transdisciplinary insights. I anticipate contacting Yasuko Kameyama at the Japanese MFA in the coming month who is leading efforts to elevate climate and security concerns in Japan.
Project #4: Protected Area Management & Natural Resource Governance: Exploring Pathways for Environmental Sustainability & Peacebuilding

Names of project leader and main collaborators:

**Dr. Joshua Fisher (PI)** is Director of the Advanced Consortium on Cooperation, Conflict, and Complexity at The Earth Institute. Dr. Fisher will serve as Principle Investigator for this research and will oversee all research activities.

**Sophia Rhee** (Staff Research Associate) is an officer of research in the Advanced Consortium on Cooperation, Conflict, and Complexity at The Earth Institute. She will conduct geospatial research and will contribute to the design and implementation of semi-structured interviews and structured surveys.

**Siqi Chen** (Statistical Intern) is a statistical intern at the Advanced Consortium on Cooperation, Conflict, and Complexity at The Earth Institute. She will conduct geospatial-statistical analysis under the mentorship of the Principal Investigator.

NERPS Researchers and Hiroshima University faculty will be invited to join the core research team.

**External Partners**

**Alec Crawford**, Senior Policy Advisor at the International Institute for Sustainable Development, has 15+ years of research experience at the nexus of environmental change, natural resources, conflict, and peacebuilding.

**Dr. Amanda Woomer** is a monitoring and evaluation specialist, working closely with global implementing partners such as Conservation International and the Environmental Peacebuilding Association.

**Geographic focus of the project:**

Global: Select protected areas will be decided in the second phase of the project.

**Main SDGs related to the project:**
Summary:
Recent studies demonstrate that in some contexts, protected areas (PAs) can serve as important engines for sustainable development. However, no systematic assessment has yet identified which governance systems and management tools are most effective at enabling PAs to provide social and environmental benefits. Given the multiple pressures on the world’s ecosystems, it is critically important to uncover both 1) what types of PAs are most effective at enhancing sustainability, and 2) how to manage PAs to minimize conflict/fragility and maximize peacebuilding.

Across two phases, this mixed-methods project will study the drivers of peace, conflict, and environmental sustainability associated with natural resources and PAs to assess effective governance and management practices that 1) magnify positive social, economic and environmental benefits, 2) mitigate the risk of protected areas amplifying fragility and conflict risk, and 3) enhance resilience to future social, environmental, and climatological shocks.

**Phase 1:** We will employ a large-N geospatial statistical methodology to identify linkages between social and environmental drivers of wellbeing and conflict near PAs globally. The methodology will also enable us to estimate the social dividends of proximity to PAs according to multiple parameters of well-being and conflict-intensity scores.

**Phase 2:** Selecting some PAs for survey based on emergent findings from Phase 1, we will qualitatively investigate the linkages between governance and management approaches and social and ecological outcomes in and around PAs. We aim to better understand key challenges and successes to achieving conservation goals in contexts of local and state fragility, and ways to integrate the needs of a variety of different stakeholders in PA management.

Main deliverables will include 2 submitted peer-reviewed publications based on each phase of the project, literature reviews and synthesis reports, and stakeholder workshops. The research will also aim to author policy guidance toolkits, and revise conflict-sensitive natural resource planning toolkits.

**Major short-, medium-, and long-term objectives:**

**Short-term (until March 2021):**
- Contribute to developing a knowledge base on PA impacts on livelihoods, health outcomes.
- Contribute to developing a knowledge base on PA impacts on conflict, fragility.

**Medium-term (until March 2022):**
- Include marginalized and indigenous groups in natural resource management and governance.
- Build robust evidence on how to use PA management to reduce anthropogenic pressure on the natural resource base.

**Long-term (until March 2024):**
- Foster social cohesion through conflict prevention and management.
- Increase adaptive capacity for critical ecosystems through more responsive governance.
Main methods for meeting the objectives:

Short-term (until March 2021):
- Literature reviews on wellbeing and conflict intensity around PAs
- Geospatial statistical research evaluating linkages between social and environmental drivers of wellbeing and conflict near PAs (Phase 1)
- Published peer-reviewed paper on knowledge and findings from geospatial research

Medium-term (until March 2022):
- Hold inclusive workshops with stakeholders in selected PAs (Phase 2)
- Conduct surveys, semi-structured interviews, and focus groups with PA managers and practitioners (Phase 2)
- Published peer-reviewed paper on key strengths, gaps and weaknesses in governance approaches, challenges to achieving conservation goals, and ways to integrate stakeholder needs in PA management
- Synthesis report on feedback and lessons learned in qualitative data

Long-term (until March 2024):
- Maintain relations with PA managements
- Contribute to policy papers and conflict-sensitive conservation toolkit

Relevance to the peace-sustainability nexus:

The peace-sustainability nexus recognizes that increasing environmental change, such as climate change and ecosystem destruction, has direct and indirect impacts on fragile or conflict-affected societies. At the same time, increasing fragility and conflict has reciprocal impacts on ecosystem integrity and the sustainability of the natural resource base.

In particular, protected areas (PAs) hold multiple social and economic impacts in a region, while also being globally important for biodiversity and climate regulation. However, many PAs also face contexts of conflict or state fragility, which can undermine social and environmental well-being. Natural resource management and environmental governance are key factors affecting social stability and sustainability in many fragile and conflict-affected regions. At times, natural capital can be an engine of peaceful development, particularly when governance institutions are transparent, accessible, adaptive to change, and responsive to the needs of multiple stakeholders.

Mismanagement, however, can create or exacerbate grievances, intensify political and economic fragility, and contribute to conflict risk. Similarly, ecosystems services are critical for communities and countries for the provisioning and regulating functions they provide. When ecosystem function is disrupted, the impacts often cascade across societies and economies, disproportionately impacting marginalized and vulnerable populations and exacerbating social tensions and unsustainable resource use.

This project is directly situated in this nexus between peace and sustainability by attempting to quantitatively and qualitatively better understand links between protected area management, and
social and ecological outcomes. That is, this project seeks to build the evidence base around the impact of global protected areas on multiple measures of peace and sustainability. This work entails a deep understanding of what peace and sustainability mean, which are apparent in what is measured and studied in this project. For instance, our conceptualization of peace falls within both positive and negative peace. By understanding peace both in terms of conflict risk as well as social well-being outcomes, we incorporate both negative and positive understandings of peace. This fits into our broader understandings of sustainability, which integrates social, economic, and ecological aspects of well-being.

Furthermore, this project emphasizes qualitative understandings of governance and management practices in Part 2, contributing to a deeper reflection on the social-ecological systems selected for study. We understand the pursuit of sustainability to inherently include processes of conflict management, conflict which arises from incompatible needs, interests, and goals, within our earth systems boundaries.

Overall, this project lies within the peace and sustainability fields in various ways both in substance and theory. At the outset, we take a holistic view of sustainability that includes multiple definitions of peace and well-being, and try to interrogate the mechanisms through which they are linked and managed, and how to best manage both social and ecological outcomes in critical protected areas throughout the world.

**Networking plan and relevant stakeholders:**

Both research and educational collaborations are critically important to the nexus work that NERPS is fostering. Multidisciplinary and multi-institution collaborations are critical to advancing knowledge and practical action toward building peace and enhancing sustainability. In this vein, our research requires a variety of methodological and technical or disciplinary expertise to be successful. Through work at Columbia University, the PI routinely leads transdisciplinary collaborations that integrate physical and social scientists. For the proposed research and appointment, the PI will bring this same spirit of multi-disciplinary collaboration to Hiroshima University. To begin, the faculty lists for various departments relevant to the research proposed above will be reviewed, specifically searching for resource economists, conservation biologists, governance specialists, anthropologists, and political scientists whose expertise and interests may be complementary to the research program. Further, a subset of those faculty as well as the NERPS faculty and affiliated researchers will be invited to participate in a workshop to refine the proposed research to align more directly with the priorities of the network and expertise of the faculty. Following the initial phase of research, we will host a research seminar with the faculty to discuss preliminary findings and define additional research questions to include in Phase 2 survey and qualitative research, as well as identify opportunities to develop joint funding proposals. Following the completion of Phase 2 research, we will host a second research seminar to discuss findings and outline future work and funding opportunities.
In addition to research collaborations, I have previously developed and delivered interdisciplinary graduate and professional curricula with other academic institutions, including professional certificates, graduate courses, and field-based trainings. During the on-campus portions of the appointment, I will explore opportunities and interest in developing joint curricula and joint educational offerings hosted at Hiroshima University and Columbia University.
Project #5: ICT-Mediated and Digital-Technologies for Resilience of Cities (IDRC): Sustainability Pathways to meet Positive Peace

Names of project leader and main collaborators:

Project Lead (Principle Investigator, PI):
Prof. Ali Cheshmehzangi, University of Nottingham Ningbo China (UNNC), Ningbo, China

Project Main Collaborator (Co-Investigator, Co-I):
Dr. Leila Irajifar, RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia

Project HU-based Collaborator (Co-Investigator, Co-I):
Dr. Ayyoob Sharifi, Hiroshima University (HU), Hiroshima, Japan

Geographic focus of the project:
Ningbo/Shanghai, China
Melbourne, Australia

Main SDGs related to the project:

Summary:
The focus of the research programme is on identifying and evaluating ICT-mediated and digital-technologies for enhancing the resilience of cities through sustainability transitions. This will be focused on the NERPS’ central theme of peace and sustainability, as well as transdisciplinary methods to the enhancement of institutional structures. This project plan will be further developed with the team to ensure if fits the needs and perspectives of the research pathways at Hiroshima University.
The study is based on transdisciplinary research area #2, “Digital technologies in the context of the nexus in an increasingly digital world (AI, Big Data, ICT, digital divide)” in connection with the secondary research area #4, “Governance and institutions, and justice in the context of the nexus (local, national and international systems)”. In doing so, the intention is to study further linkages between the primary area and the impacts and/or pathways that may be seen in achieving the SDGs and the practice of sustainability, especially from the perspectives of governance and contextual development. The primary goals of this selection are: (1) to expand on the emerging topics or new areas that need to be explored further in relation to digital technologies, particularly through enabling transition and innovation platforms. In doing so, the foremost aim is to investigate the position of key digital areas (such as, AI, Big Data, ICT, and Digital Divide) in achieving or enabling pathways to achieve resilience of cities through the understanding of the SDGs.

The aim of the study is to explore and evaluate ICT-based methods and medium (Including ICT platforms, digital technologies, ICT tools/apps, and mechanisms) for enhancing the resilience of cities. The findings would determine sustainability pathways to meet selected positive peace dimensions.

**Major short-, medium-, and long-term objectives:**

**Short-term (until March 2021):**
As part of WP#1:
- A comprehensive horizon scanning of the nexus between ‘ICT-based/Digital-Techs’ and ‘Urban Resilience’ to:
  - (a) identify categories of initiatives/projects worldwide;
  - (b) select at least three types of initiatives/projects in three streams of ‘environmental’, ‘socio-economic’, and ‘health’; and
  - (c) evaluate their success and failures in conceptualization, implementation, and execution;
- One review paper;
- Preparation of two conference papers;
- One report for WP#1.

**Medium-term (until March 2022):**
As part of WP#2 (depending on findings of WP#1):
- We will conduct four studies based on four selected dimensions of positive peace, namely:
  - (i) Well-functioning government;
  - (ii) Equitable distribution of resources;
  - (iii) Free flow of information; and
  - (iv) Good relations with neighbours.

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1 See page 28 for details on Working Packages (WPs)
• Four research papers;
• One report as part of WP#2.

As part of WP#3:
• We will generate 4 sets of sustainability checklists (one per study in WP#2);
• Conduct an interchangeability analysis of four sustainability dimensions in each studies case.

As part of WP#4:
• Two workshops held in Japan;
• Two stakeholder engagement events in country cases, as well as one in Japan.

Long-term (until March 2024):
• Enhance project impact on the field of research;
• Propose for external research funding through joint mechanism;
• Support continuing researchers for further career development.

Main methods for meeting the objectives:

Short-term (until March 2021):
• Recruitment of Research Assistants in three-country locations to work collaboratively on the project goals and objectives;
• Training of research members to conduct a comprehensive literature study and bibliography analysis;
• Engagement with the local stakeholders for specific projects/initiatives/programmes in each location;
• Prepare an interval report to summarise the findings for directing WPs #2 and #3.

Medium-term (until March 2022):
• Collaboratively work on four case study areas in two locations;
• Develop a workshop by June/July 2021 with a stakeholder engagement event;
• Develop a series of workshops in the form of a short training for students and young researchers by January 2022;
• Develop a series of research engagement sessions to develop joint external grant applications after the project completion;
• One final report.

Long-term (until March 2024):
• Explore and prepare for joint research grant applications in between the team;
• Provision of career development support for junior researchers involved in the project;
• Disseminate the findings and continue further research in selected streams.
Relevance to the peace-sustainability nexus:

This research programme is selected based on transdisciplinary research areas of “Digital technologies in the context of the nexus in an increasingly digital world (AI, Big Data, ICT, digital divide)” as the primary choice and linked with a secondary research area of “Governance and institutions, and justice in the context of the nexus (local, national and international systems)”. In doing so, the intention is to study further linkages between the primary area and the impacts and/or pathways that may be seen in achieving the SDGs and the practice of sustainability, especially from the perspectives of governance and contextual development. The project approaches this through the evaluation of ICT-mediated and digital technologies for resilience of cities, specifically looking at specific initiative and programmes that have led to success and failures of ICT-based platforms in urban sustainability research.

The primary goals of this selection are: (1) to expand on the emerging topics or new areas that need to be explored further in relation to digital technologies, particularly through enabling transition and innovation platforms. In doing so, the foremost aim is to investigate the position of key digital areas (such as, AI, Big Data, ICT, and Digital Divide) in achieving or enabling pathways to achieve the SDGs. This, in particular, would be seen by looking at matters of prosperity and peace, as well as addressing the target indicators of SDG #11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), SDG #16 (Peace and Justice), and SDG #17 (Partnerships for the Goals). These will be taken into consideration from three perspectives of people, planning, and participation. (2) to evaluate the importance of transition in the practice of sustainability and how they should be adjusted and governed in accordance to increasing digital world, particularly from the dimension of utilizing digital technologies in the development of smart cities, big data use in city management, and AI-based methods in achieving social peace and justice. In doing so, we will look into pilot examples and analytical studies that could highlight both factors of achieving the SDGs and enabling digital technologies. And (3) to develop new research streams or suggestions that could enable further research in the area, of particular to the interest of the research partners in all three country locations. By linking to the secondary area, the results generated from pilot projects and collaborative programmes would feed into matters of urban governance, as well as those factors that could support the decision making at the local and national levels in the geographical locations of case studies.

Networking plan and relevant stakeholders:

The project’s networking plan aims to build on the existing capacity of science for sustainable development. The consideration of integrated sustainability-resilience-peace approach will be central to activities proposed for further social contributions, research development and management, research delivery, and strategic development of associated pathways in the programme.

The project’s networking plan is the following:

*With academics*
This project brings a network of international scholars to link with the team. This enables us to expand on specific topics related to the selected transdisciplinary research area, as well as the wider network of digital technologies, smart cities, resilient cities, sustainable urbanism, and peace & prosperity. In doing so, we will expand on the list of partner organizations and academic stakeholders, and also link to new research opportunities that could be nurtured throughout the project timeline. The project also provides collaborative workshop events with the aim for future research grant development and joint publications, as well as leadership in specific areas of research (of interest to the team).

*With non-academic stakeholders*

This proposed findings of this research programme are important for governance and institutional structures/arrangements associated with the emerging topics in digital technologies. With existing links with international agencies, the aim is to build on networking opportunities with intergovernmental agencies. This is aimed to support the main research initiative on peace and sustainability. These are conducted through collaborative stakeholder engagement events throughout the project by creating industry-driven opportunities that could fund/support future collaborative research for the team members. There will be participatory outreach events to help to expand on new opportunities for research capacity development and partnership that could lead towards future joint research applications. We will work with specific local industries that could develop as future leaders in digital technologies, and those that could then nurture the pathways of achieving the SDGs.
Research packages

The study is divided into four work packages (WPs) as shown below:

(WP #1) Research Package 1 (Nov 2020-Jan 2021) JNC/N (LEAD), HU/H and RMIT/R (Contributors)

1.1 Literature review to evaluate ICT-based mechanisms, tools/opportunities, and methods for achieving resilience of the city.

1.2 A comprehensive horizon scanning of the nexus between ‘ICT-based/Digital-Techs’ and ‘Urban Resilience’ to (a) identify categories of initiatives/projects worldwide, (b) select at least three types of initiatives/projects in three streams of ‘environmental’, ‘socio-economic’, and ‘health’, and (c) evaluate their success and failures in conceptualization, implementation, and execution.

**OUTPUTS:** One review paper, one report – Timeline: Dec 2021-March 2021

(WP #2) Research Package 2 (Jan 2021-Nov 2021): We will conduct four studies based on four selected dimensions of positive peace, namely (i) Well-functioning government, (ii) Equitable distribution of resources, (iii) Free flow of information, and (iv) Good relations with neighbors.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dimension</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(i) Well-functioning government</td>
<td>N-LEAD, H-Co-LEAD, R-Contributor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(ii) Equitable distribution of resources</td>
<td>H-LEAD, R-Co-LEAD, N-Contributor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(iii) Free flow of information</td>
<td>N-LEAD, H-Co-LEAD, R-Contributor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(iv) Good relations with neighbors</td>
<td>R-LEAD, N-Co-LEAD, H-Contributor</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**OUTPUTS:** Four research papers, one report – Timeline: Feb-Dec 2021

(WP #3) Research Package 3 (Dec 2021-Feb 2022): We will generate 4 sets of sustainability checklists (one per study in WP#2), and conduct an interchangeability analysis of four sustainability dimensions in each studies case.

**OUTPUTS:** A report – Timeline: Feb-2022 to March 2022

(WP #4) Research Package 4 (Dec 2021-Feb 2022): We will generate 4 sets of sustainability checklists (one per study in WP#2), and conduct an interchangeability analysis of four sustainability dimensions in each studies case.
Project #6: Sustainable Peace and Peaceful Sustainability in Conflict-Affected Societies

Names of project leader and main collaborators:
Dahlia Simangan (PI); Ayyoob Sharifi (Co-I); Shinji Kaneko, Srinjoy Bose, Catherine Weaver, and Florian Krampe (collaborators)

Geographic focus of the project:
Global (statistics); Afghanistan and Nepal (case studies)

Main SDGs related to the project:

Summary:
This project will advance the integration of positive peace and environmental sustainability in order to maximize the impact of their policies and initiatives in societies vulnerable to conflict and environmental risks. Global environmental changes are transforming the security landscape in which both conflicts and peacebuilding processes take place. While existing research underscores the importance of climate-sensitive approaches to peacebuilding, the focus has been on violent conflict and environmental degradation. The relationship between the positive dimension of peace and more local manifestations of environmental sustainability, however, remain grossly under-examined. This project, therefore, will identify the relationship between positive peace and sustainability by analyzing a panel data of existing national-level indicators drawn from the Institute for Economics & Peace’s Positive Peace Index and Yale University’s Environmental Performance Index. After examining the associations of the indices’ ranking and the relationship between their indicators, an integrated index that covers both positive peace and environmental sustainability will be created and linked to an annually updated database of existing relevant statistics. To complement the national data with local perspectives, this project will also undertake case studies of Nepal and Afghanistan, two countries that have ranked low in both indices in recent years. In these countries, a lack of environmental sustainability is observable in increased water scarcity and floods, which exacerbate
social, economic, and political issues, contributing to community-level conflict and regional tensions. Integrating the components of positive peace and environmental sustainability using a mixed-methods, interdisciplinary research design enables a holistic approach to peace and sustainability.

**Major short-, medium-, and long-term objectives:**

**Short-term (until March 2021):**
- To identify the variables linking positive peace and environmental sustainability and establish their relationship
- To integrate positive peace indicators and environmental sustainability indicators

**Medium-term (until March 2022):**
- To examine local perspectives and community-level manifestations of positive peace-environmental sustainability nexus
- To influence research, policies, and initiatives on positive peace and environmental sustainability

**Long-term (until March 2024):**
- To advance end-user engagement with various stakeholders working on peace and sustainability
- To develop a Hiroshima University-based research cluster on positive peace-environmental sustainability nexus

**Main methods for meeting the objectives:**

**Short-term (until March 2021):**
- We will use a ten-year (2009-2019) panel data of available countries ranked in the Positive Peace Index or PPI and Environmental Performance Index or EPI and examine the associations between their rankings using Spearman’s rank correlation coefficients. The Granger causality test, using the dynamic panel data, will allow us to examine the nature of associations between the indices and unpack the relationships between their respective indicators.
- A content analysis of existing indices on positive peace and environmental sustainability will be conducted to come up with an integrated index that covers both positive peace and environmental sustainability.

**Medium-term (until March 2022):**
- We will complement the national-level statistical data with field research data collected through field observations, focus group discussions with local communities, and semi-structured interviews with key informants from governmental and non-governmental agencies. The preparation of questionnaires, guidelines, and information sheets for the field research will be informed by the preliminary results of the statistical analysis. The fieldwork component will highlight the local manifestations of peace-sustainability nexus and the implications of peace and sustainability initiatives for local communities. We propose Afghanistan and Nepal as case studies as they ranked low in the most recent reports of both
indices and are considered countries in transition. Considering the relevance of transboundary water governance for peace and sustainability, we will focus on Salma Dam in Herat (a more peaceful region in Afghanistan) and Koshi Barrage in Nepal. The construction of these dams had a considerable impact on the local environment and livelihoods, generating political tensions and local grievances.

- We will produce two infographics about the statistical analysis and a video documentary of the field research to be disseminated to partner organizations in Japan, Afghanistan, Nepal, and elsewhere. The video will be officially launched in a public symposium at Hiroshima University to be participated by practitioners from Afghanistan and Nepal and academics and policymakers from Japan. The project will also publish two research articles, two field reports, and a policy brief to be disseminated to academic and policy circles through seminars.

Long-term (until March 2024):

- The project will create a dedicated webpage, hosted by the NERPS website, which will serve as a publicly accessible online repository for the project’s outputs. The webpage will feature an interactive design, showcasing the relationship between positive peace and environmental sustainability across countries and over the years. To maintain engagement with various stakeholders, we will also regularly release infographics and field reports, publish our findings to academic journals, and present our outputs to seminars and conferences.

- We will continuously submit grant proposals to funding agencies in order to extend the project and fund the research cluster at Hiroshima University. The research cluster will update the database annually and undertake additional case studies, starting with countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

Relevance to the peace-sustainability nexus:

The existing literature says a lot about peace and sustainability, and that they are interrelated concepts, but the particularities of their relationship need more empirical investigation. Although there are existing indices that measure either peace or sustainability, none so far integrates both or measures their interaction. For example, although climate change and sustainable environmental performance is acknowledged in the Global Peace Index and Positive Peace Report, respectively, environmental sustainability is not included in its indicators. Relatedly, the Environmental Performance Index does not differentiate countries according to their levels of peacefulness or conflict risks. Furthermore, there is a lack of local perspectives into these indicators that can illuminate the everyday manifestations and contexts of implementing peace and sustainability initiatives.

The project’s overarching goal is to advance the integration of positive peace and environmental sustainability. Global, national, and local efforts to achieve positive peace and environmental sustainability remain fragmented despite growing recognition that peace and sustainability are inextricably linked. In the current context of unprecedented global change, this fragmentation has profound implications for the international community as well as local communities. Peace
negotiations, for instance, tend to overlook the impact of peace settlements on the natural environment of affected communities. Warring parties might exploit natural resources to finance their activities, thereby prolonging their participation in conflict. Similarly, environmental sustainability initiatives tend to downplay the potential social conflict or tension arising from such initiatives. For example, funding for environmental sustainability may be captured by local elites, thereby reinforcing economic inequalities that often fuel social grievances and violent conflict. While existing studies have focused on violent conflict and environmental destruction, the peace-promoting potential of environmental sustainability and the sustainability-promoting potential of peace remain grossly under-examined.

A fragmented approach to peace and sustainability is problematic because it conceals from policymaking their potential to either undermine or bolster each other, minimizing the positive impact of policies and initiatives. It is, therefore, imperative to streamline research and policies on positive peace and environmental sustainability to maximize the outcomes of their policies. Hence, more research is needed to examine the mutually reinforcing components of positive peace and environmental sustainability. Integrating these components will also enable practitioners and policymakers to advance solutions that simultaneously address conflict and environmental degradation. This project, therefore, sets a research agenda that will analyze the nature of associations between positive peace and environmental sustainability both at the national and local levels to illuminate the positive interactions and correlations of their respective components.

**Networking plan and relevant stakeholders:**

This project consists of collaborators from Australia, Japan, Sweden, and the US, and partner organizations from Afghanistan and Nepal. As the project develops and adds case studies, more collaborators and partner organizations will be added to the project’s network. The profiles of the collaborators and partner organizations, past and present, will be permanently featured in the project’s webpage. All outputs relevant to the collaborators and partner organizations will be shared with their respective networks, further expanding the dissemination reach of the project.

This project will also develop its existing partnership with the Institute for Economics & Peace. Dr. Dahlia Simangan (PI) has already been invited to present this project plan to the second cohort of the 2020 IEP Ambassador Program. In addition, a collaborative proposal between IEP and NERPS has recently been submitted to the Australia-Japan Foundation grant by Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Australia. IEP has demonstrated an interest in partnering with NERPS for conducting positive peace workshops for educators, practitioners, policymakers, and private stakeholders in Japan. This project will sustain IEP’s demonstrated interest in collaborating with NERPS.

In addition to IEP, other institutes and agencies managing and hosting sustainability indicators will be invited to the network. Sharing the project’s outputs and conducting joint seminars are the potential steps for engaging with said stakeholders. Relatedly, this project will conduct regular seminars for relevant and interested government agencies and organizations in Japan and beyond. The seminars will highlight the utility of the integrated index and updated database for informing their activities or
policies. Finally, webpage visitors who downloaded any out of the project’s outputs will be required to leave their e-mail addresses to add to the list of recipients who will receive regular updates about the project.

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