

The Fund for Environment and Conflict Resolution

Project Outline	The Fund for Environment and Conflict Resolution is a joint program between the <i>Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea (The Ministry)</i> , and Columbia University's <i>Center for International Conflict Resolution (CICR)</i> , which seeks to enhance understanding of the global environment and conflict resolution in order to protect societies and the environment in a sustainable, constructive and peaceful manner.
Rationale	In recognition of the hazardous and potentially destabilizing role played by environmental degradation and climate change in the eruption, re-ignition or escalation of international deadly conflict, in provoking global insecurity and impeding sustainable development in post-conflict environments, The Ministry and CICR have engaged in a partnership to further research, collaboration and understanding in these vital, cross-cutting fields.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ To promote working relationships between prominent scholars at Columbia University, in Italy and in the international realm – including those from developing countries – around the issue of the global environment and conflict resolution. ✓ To encourage the exchange of lessons learned and best practices regarding environmental concerns and the role of climate change in fragile states, post-conflict environments and in promoting sustainable development. ✓ To develop a greater understanding of the role of the environmental and climate change with respects to conflict prevention, conflict resolution, post-conflict reconstruction, international security and sustainable development in general. ✓ To publish and disseminate widely the findings of research and projects.
Focus Areas	<p>The Fund has three major focus areas:</p> <p>a) Fragile states and the field of conflict prevention – specifically in China, the Middle East and North Africa with respect to conflicts or potential conflicts fuelled by natural resources, deforestation, and the role of renewable energy within these frameworks;</p> <p>b) In conflict resolution and post-conflict reconstruction – specifically the Balkans, Iraq, Afghanistan, Peru and Colombia, focusing on environmental solutions and sustainable development policies;</p> <p>c) In international security and climate change, in general, taking into consideration the impact of the current financial crisis and potential consequences on the field, with particular attention on water scarcity.</p>
Structure	<p>The fund is structured according to three major areas:</p> <p>a) Research: on the themes and areas designated above.</p> <p>b) Teaching: providing degree and education programs on lessons learned by the Italian Ministry and partner international organizations such as UNEP, CIDA, USAID, UNDP and partner government ministries, paying particular attention to projects carried out in Iraq and Central and Eastern Europe, as well as the other area others mentioned above.</p> <p>c) Fellowships: allowing senior scholars to spend semester(s) as Visiting Fellows at CICR, bringing graduate, doctoral and post-doctoral to CICR to strengthen capacity and knowledge in Focus Areas and to support master degree scholarships.</p>
Outputs/ Outcomes	<p>Outputs: scholarships, fellowships, scholarly articles, journals, books, new media, website, research projects, curricula, seminars, panels, roundtables and conferences.</p> <p>Outcomes: enhanced understanding of: the global environment and international conflict resolution; aid effectiveness in areas of interest for the Italian ministry; and, enhanced international cooperation among actors in fields relevant to the environment and conflict.</p>

