“A book “Zones of Peace” is overall a brilliant idea, with enormous potential for averting territorial conflicts. As an ecological conservationist, I can see great promises for the protection of natural ecosystems and biodiversity.”

E.O. Wilson, Pellegrino University Research Professor, Emeritus, Harvard University, USA

A Prospectus prepared for consideration for publication.
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Middle East: The Qatar Foundation (TBC)
The Americas: International Community Foundation, USA (TBC)
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INTRODUCTION

Building peace through shared conservation issues has thus far been an underutilized tool and deserves further consideration at a time when the world faces many seemingly intractable conflicts, explicit threats to the environment and traditional diplomacy is not working.

In 1998, for the first time in diplomatic history explicit environmental conservation measures were used to resolve the territorial conflict between Peru and Ecuador that had previously spawned several decades of armed conflict. In their peace treaty that was negotiated with the assistance of the United States and Brazil, both agreed to designate the disputed territory for ecological conservation purposes. Simultaneously an economic plan was also adopted to benefit communities along the border. This is our vision of Peace Parks: where environmental issues are addressed for the purpose of building peace along with cultural preservation and economic development to improve local economies. The project we propose builds on this underappreciated example of positive diplomacy.

We request funds for a comprehensive Atlas of Ecological Cooperation that will evaluate the world-wide status of ongoing or threatening conflicts, analyze ecological and cultural systems affected and propose ways that conservation measures can be used to bring parties together to solve environmental problems, preserve cultural systems and develop solutions that addresses food and shelter needs of parties involved. We have a long-term vision for this project. The Atlas Project consists of a comprehensive book and a website that will be updated as conditions on the ground change. We also plan a documentary and, upon completion of the Atlas, we plan an International Symposium with leaders and researchers in the field of environmental peace-making (we can send this proposal as well if you are interested).

We plan to have our research products translated into the six primary UN languages with a world-wide distribution. The intent is to inspire peace-builders world-wide to look at problems in a new light, instigate new dialogues based on the information we present. We are all committed to this process and consider this effort to be an important means of achieving the long-term goal of getting countries and communities to think about borders in terms of ecological systems rather than as artificially crafted political boundaries. As global governance institutions slowly evolve, the role of ecology needs to be further emphasized and this atlas project aims to clearly delineate how that can be done.
The proposed book Zones of Peace: an Atlas of Ecological Cooperation follows the publication of Peace Parks: Conservation and Conflict Resolution edited by Saleem Ali (MIT Press, 2007). The idea was sparked (in the course of Anna Grichting’s doctoral research) by a publication entitled Zones of Conflict. An Atlas of Future Wars published by John Keegan and Andrew Wheatcroft in 1986, which maps out areas of future clashes and wars. As an alternative, the proposed atlas maps out areas along political borders that could be transformed into zones of cooperation. The book would document such zones that are currently being planned, researched and/or negotiated in existing zones of conflict, as well as possible future Peace Parks that could be implemented as preventive measures to future conflicts. The Atlas considers functional ecosystems as units of analysis for geographic demarcation rather than human-imposed geopolitical boundaries and will be aimed at challenging conventional perceptions of borders at multiple levels of political and social discourse.

It is both intended to provide constructive guidance on rehabilitating conflict zones at the level of landscape architecture, and as an instrument to inform and inspire peace builders all over the globe from various disciplinary fields, ranging in expertise from ecology and biodiversity, to environmental law, to spatial planning and design. The maps in the book will also serve as an instrument of communication for a team of psychologists and geographers working on a National Science Foundation proposal to see how environmental cooperation can empirically lead to lasting conflict resolution. By visualizing ecosystems beyond borders, stakeholders in border conflicts may be challenged to consider the significance of ecological conflict resolution in ways that defy conventional diplomacy: the environment may thus act as a catalyst for stimulating cooperative behavior between erstwhile adversaries.

In the initial stages of the project, a committee, composed of geographers, lawyers, environmental and biodiversity experts, amongst others, will form a base of expertise to oversee the project and to define the goals of the Atlas. A group of professional cartographers will be formed to create informative and visually provocative maps, from data that will be collected from the groups and organizations developing Peace Parks projects worldwide, as well as through the proposed new Institute for Environmental Conflict and Cooperation at the University of Vermont.
MILITARY BUFFER
SEPARATES:
Opposing forces and prevents hostilities

ENVIRONMENTAL BUFFER
PROTECTS:
Ressources and Biodiversity

BUFFER MEMORY
STORES:
Processes Memory, Temporary storage

LANDSCAPE OF MEMORY
& LABORATORY OF
ECOLOGICAL PLANNING
AND HUMAN RECONCILIATION
CONNECT HISTORIES
CONNECT ECOSYSTEMS
CONNECT COMMUNITIES

PROCESS OF RECONCILIATION
**PROPOSED FRAMEWORK: BACKGROUND**

**Environmental Peace-building. A Photographic History.**
- A photographic essay about key episodes in history when environmental factors brought enemies together — this section will particularly focus on natural disasters that led to cooperation and programs as well as postwar efforts such as the Sister Cities program.

**War and the Environment: Military Geographies of Major Conflicts.**
- The ecological footprint of major wars will be considered spatially with maps that show land mines, unexploded ordinance, military bases, contaminated areas, nuclear testing sites and relocated communities (particularly in the Pacific archipelagoes).

**Ecoregions of the World** (In partnership with WWF and WCS)
- Using WWF Ecoregions as a starting point this part of the atlas will delineate the ecologically defined borders and watersheds and juxtapose them on political boundaries (the web version of the atlas will have some interactive displays which allow for users to use different data overlay).

**Watersheds and Riparian borders** (In partnership with the Pacific Institute)
- Exploring the geography of shared river basins and treaties which manage them across political borders
- Lakes that are shared across political borders and their pollution profiles and efforts to consider joint management systems for such basins.

**Global Environmental Law and Policy** (In partnership with IUCN, Environmental Law Centre)
- This section will present maps of key international treaties and their jurisdiction with a special focus on The Antarctic Treaty and the Law of the Sea Convention.
Habitat Mapping.

In Germany, the mapping, identification and evaluation of Habitat Types has been conducted along the Green Belt. During Biodiversity Day in June 2003, organized by BUND Germany and Geo Magazine, around 500 experts participated in the mapping of over 5200 different species of animals and plants in 24 hours in nine areas along the Green Belt. Species which were thought to be extinct in Germany were rediscovered.

Green Shares

One of the innovative measures of the European Green Belt project in Germany is the creation of Green Shares. Competing interests to develop, privatize, and cultivate the land, associated with the complex questions of land tenure continue to challenge this visionary project. Bund Naturschutz Germany (BUND) has recognized that land purchase is, at times, the only way to protect habitats from destruction in the long run and they have started to buy unique habitats from private owners in six areas along the Green Belt. To this day, around 280 hectares of the German Green Belt have been purchased through Green Share Certificates by more than 10,000 people, who have become symbolic shareholders of the German Green Belt.


A Green Necklace. The patrol path as unifying backbone.

“Since a Green Belt means many different things to the different stakeholders, there will be no single form for the Green Belt to take throughout Europe. In most countries, the Green Belt will connect protected areas such as National Parks, Nature Parks, Biosphere Reserves and Transboundary Protected Areas (TBPA), and other areas used to foster sustainable development initiatives.”

http://www.europeangreenbelt.org/001.route_ce.html
PROPOSED FRAMEWORK: TYPOLOGIES AND SCALES

Typologies and scales of Peace Parks with specific case analyses
- Corridor (Korea’s Demilitarized Zone, Cyprus Green Line)
- Necklace (The Iron Curtain Green Belt)
- Transboundary Protected Area (Cordillera Del Condor Region between Ecuador and Peru)
- Cultural and Archeological Peace Park (El Pillar Mayan site between Belize and Guatemala)
- Urban Peace Park (Nicosia Cyprus)
- Active Conflict Zones and Militarized Peace Parks (Mesopotamian Marshes between Iraq and Iran, The Afghan Peace Park, Siachen Glacier (India, Pakistan, China)

Alphabetical section with ecological maps of territorial disputes worldwide
(derived from a U.N list of contested territories between countries)
- A compendium of maps by region of such zones and scaling in terms of conflict or peace in region.
- A series of maps for each Peace Park will include:
  o Actors and Stakeholders: Regional, Third-Party, National/International, Government/Non-Government
  o Natural conditions: water, soil, topography etc.
  o Pre-conflict conditions
  o Conflict conditions (buffer zone, front line, boundary etc)
  o Post-conflict condition (transboundary peace park, protected area)
  o Ecosystems and biodiversity
  o Cultural and memorial sites
  o Economic and touristic activities
Friendship Park, US-Mexico Border. The park is just a stone’s throw from the beach. The Mexico side sits next to a bullring and a series of small restaurants selling seafood and cold drinks. In the past year it was demolished by the Department of Homeland Security and divided by the construction of the Fence.

Nearly 40 years ago this month, First Lady Pat Nixon crossed the U.S.-Mexico border and embraced Mexican children, saying, “I hate to see a fence anywhere.”

The Eastern Tropical Pacific also offers a very interesting story of migratory species whose destiny is linked to illegal gill net fishing and development projects. The Municipality of La Paz, Baja California Sur in Mexico—which includes the capital city of La Paz to the east and the former Spanish colonial town of Todos Santos on the Pacific coast to the west—offers an interesting glimpse of the future of three endangered species of the Eastern Tropical Pacific, the hammerhead shark, whale shark and the leatherback turtle. In the case of the hammerhead shark and whale shark, their nesting areas of being threatened by a real estate project now underway called Paradiso del Mar.

La Amistad Peace Park. Panama-Costa Rica.

La Cordillera del Condor. Peru-Ecuador.
PROPOSED FRAMEWORK: A REGIONAL APPROACH

Peace Parks and Transboundary Cooperation: A Regional Approach

• The Americas
  o US-Mexico: Friendship Park at the San Diego/Tijuana
  o Eastern Tropical Pacific (international maritime region that includes important eco-systems of Mexico, Costa Rica, Panama, and Ecuador)
  o Panama/Costa Rica (Parque Internacional Amistad)
  o Cordiellar del Condor: Peru-Ecuador

• The Middle East
  o The Golan Heights: Jordan and Israel)
  o Mesopotamian Marshes (Iran and Irak)
  o Red Sea Marine Peace Park (Israel and Jordan)
  o The Doha Cluster (UNESCO). Border Disputes
    o Saudi Arabia-Yemen 2004
    o Kuwait-Iraq Barrier
    o Bahrain - Qatar Border Dispute. Islands of Hawar

• Asia
  o Korea DMZ (Korea DPRK-Korea ROK)
  o Siachen Glacier (Pakistan-India-China)
  o Pakistan, Pameer, Turkmenistan
  o Future Peace Parks in Asia.
    o The Altai Mountain (Russia, China, Mongolia, Kazkhstan)
    o The Northern Annamite Range (Lao PDR/Vietnam)
    o The Qomolangma/Sagarmatha Region (China / Nepal)
    o The Karakoram Range (Pakistan/India)
    o Kanchanjuga Conservation Area (China / India / Nepal)
    o The Khunjerab/Taxcorgan Parks (Pakistan / China)
    o Pamir Wakhan (Pakistan/Tajikistan/Kyrghystan/Afghanistan)

Fulfilling the vision of ecological cooperation: a confluence of art and science (in partnership with the Earth Charter secretariat, Costa Rica).
  • Images of ecological peace artwork and testimonials from global leaders on prospects for such efforts in reaching fruition.
Illustrations. A map of historical and contemporary walls. (From left to right). The Korea Demilitarized Zone, The Great Wall of China, The Korea DMZ, Hadrian’s Wall, Morocco Desert Berm, Offa’s Dyke, Iron Curtain Green Belt, Atlantic Wall Fort, Cyprus Green Line.
MARKETING & MULTIMEDIA POTENTIAL

MARKETING POTENTIAL
This is truly a pioneering project in its scope as there are no competing books that present these ideas in a visually appealing and integrative way. Existing Atlases of Biodiversity (such as those produced by UNEP) are focused on technical indicators of impact and not on policy prescriptions that present clearly delineated prospects for territorial conflict resolution.

The book also has a strong educational purpose and aims to provide a truly global view of geography which transcends the usual narratives that are divided by country or cultural categories. While acknowledging such structures, the Atlas presents the reader with a fresh perspective on how political borders are imposed on ecological systems in some cases, while natural features, in other cases, may form natural boundaries (mountain ranges or rivers).

The book has tremendous marketing potential through the United Nations Environment Programme (who have agreed to provide data layers through the World Conservation Monitoring Centre) and also through UNESCO programs that could assist in translation into the six major United Nations languages.

MULTIMEDIA POTENTIAL
Such a project has a natural visual appeal for documentary production as it blends the heightened public interest in environmental conservation and biodiversity with a practical set of suggestions for conflict resolution of some of the world’s most intractable conflicts. A documentary could have broad appeal for broadcast through The National Geographic Channel and other distribution networks of news organizations as well (such as CNN), given the appeal to international conflict resolution.

A DYNAMIC DIGITAL ATLAS
The web site or multi-media version of the Atlas, a digital, dynamic Atlas, would be especially appealing as it will be continually updated to reflect the current evolutions and transformations. It will also offer accessibility to a large global audience who would not have access to the printed versions.
Illustrations:
Top Left: Monk Seal distribution in the Mediterranean. The Monk Seal is on the Red List of endangered species of the World. Right: The disputed Maritime Boundary between Greece and Turkey. Below: Location of the Kokkina Enclave within the United Nations Buffer Zone in Cyprus, where Monk Seals have been sighted by the Turkish Army patrolling the UN Buffer Zone.
A total budget of $400,000 for this 2 year project has been estimated. A commitment from National Geographic Maps has been received if all funds required for the greater vision of our project are raised (see attached letter). The MacArthur Foundation has expressed interest regarding trans-boundary water issues. UNESCO has agreed to provide expertise and technical support as long as we can raise requisite funds from foundations and other sources. Of these, the Qatar foundation has so far expressed their interest to become funders and partners of the project. Conservation International and the Wildlife Conservation Society have agreed to provide technical support.
Illustrations:
BIOGRAPHIES

Saleem Ali is an internationally recognized scholar in environmental peace-building and has brought people together to address these issues around the world. Originally from Pakistan, Dr. Ali has a firm commitment to seeing environmental issues help in resolving conflicts in South Asia which has motivated him to embark on this project. His home institution, the University of Vermont (UVM), will host this project and is widely recognized as a premier environmental research university with the newly endowed Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources, where Dr. Ali is based. Dr. Ali’s work on environmental peace-building was recognized in 2007 by the award-winning science magazine Seed magazine by choosing him as one of 8 “revolutionary” minds in science. Dr. Ali has also held research appointments at the Brookings Institution, the United Nations mandated University for Peace (Costa Rica) and Griffith University (Australia). His previously mentioned book Peace Parks received cover endorsements from the head of the United Nations Environment Programme, and eminent conservationists E.O. Wilson and George Schaller.

Anna Grichting is an architect, urbanist and musician and she has recently completed her doctoral degree at Harvard University in environmental design where her research focused on the design of a peace park in Nicosia Cyprus. Her work has an interdisciplinary outlook - spanning the disciplines of art, architecture, urbanism, landscape, ecology and conflict resolution - and explores contemporary and historical territorial barriers. Dr. Grichting’s research on boundaries has been integrated into her practice as an architect and urbanist and also extends to art works (the Cyprus Chess Board) and musical recordings and performances (Border Meetings, Sufi Moon). She has taught at the Universities of Geneva, Switzerland and Harvard University, and organized workshops and study trips on the Berlin Wall, the Cyprus Green Line and the Korean Demilitarized Zone. She is currently working for the Aga Khan Foundation on an education initiative that investigates the Cyprus Green Line as an ecological opportunity. Dr. Grichting has extensive experience in multi-media education productions and has worked as a consultant for numerous European organizations. Originally from Switzerland, she is fluent in four languages and has lectured widely across Europe, North America and Asia. She is the recipient of the Penny White Prize for excellence in scholarship from Harvard University’s Graduate School of Design.
Illustrations:

Recycling the Wall. An Ecological and Memory Trail
Top: The Great Wall of China Marathon
Middle: The Circle of Remembrance near the village of Sorge by Landscape Artist Herman Prigrann
The Iron Curtain Green Belt Patrol Path as Bicycle Trail
Bottom: Iron Curtain Green Belt. A Watchpost converted into a Bird Wildlife Observatory
Letter of Support for the Atlas of Ecological Cooperation

National Geographic Maps' commitment to create a project based on the Atlas of Ecological Cooperation initiative is based on raising all funds necessary to support the publication costs for such project. If your organization is willing to support the project, please provide a letter of commitment. When commitments for all necessary funds have been obtained, a formal agreement will be entered into by all parties to establish roles, etc. for the project.

I am pleased that over the past year plus, the National Geographic Society and the Atlas of Ecological Cooperation have been able to explore several mutually beneficial means of working together to incorporate content produced under the Atlas of Ecological Cooperation, and Atlas of Ecological Cooperation developers themselves, into various outlets within National Geographic media. The objective of the Atlas of Ecological Cooperation is consistent with the Society's mission of inspiring people to care about the planet and its inhabitants, and our focus on promoting a conservation ethic, enhancing and sustaining distinctive destination cultures and heritage, and preserving the stunning bio-diversity the project has revealed come together nicely in numerous ways.

The intent of my letter is to express and formalize our two organizations' willingness to continue to collaborate on media and communications projects involving Atlas of Ecological Cooperation data and content. With each specific collaboration should the need arise, the Atlas of Ecological Cooperation will need to reach agreement with the particular NGS business unit of record; we will help facilitate this as needed.

National Geographic Maps is pleased to support this collaboration from the perspective of our programs. We look forward to seeing the results and hope that others will be inspired to take active roles in the future of areas of ecological cooperation.

Sincerely,

Charles Regan
Vice President & General Manager
NG Maps
A Post

Anna Grichting
18, Rue Butini
1202 Geneva

Berne, 11.02.2009

Meeting at Harvard and Peace Parks Atlas

Dear Miss Grichting,

It was a pleasure to meet you at the occasion of my lecture at Harvard University last fall and I would like to congratulate you on this fascinating project "Zones of Peace".

As you know, the search for peace on this planet is a cornerstone of Swiss foreign policy and I try myself to contribute to it as much as possible as a Minister of foreign affairs. Of course, peace policies are essentially a very political matter and one wouldn't think primarily of urbanism or ecology as an instrument of peace. But while looking at it closer, one shouldn't exclude these more technical or social approaches, that are less politicized.

That's why I would like to encourage you to continue your work on this issue. Unfortunately I can't give you at this stage specific advice on possible sources of funding. But I will forward it to units in my Ministry, which might have an interest in this project.

Yours sincerely,

Micheline Calmy-Rey
Federal Councillor
Dr. Benno Boer  
Ecological Sciences Advisor, UNESCO Arab region  
April, 21, 2009

It gives me pleasure to express the support of the Centre of Friends of Environment for the idea of the project initiated by Dr. Saleem Ali and Dr. Anna Grichting to develop an "Atlas of Ecological Cooperation" under the auspices of UNESCO and other international organizations and an accompanying documentary with The National Geographic Society in the United States.

We expect that this project furthers the goals of Qatar and the region in promoting environmental awareness among the public as well as policy-makers about the importance of ecological concerns across states and jurisdictions. It is believed that UNESCO is well-suited to be involved in this effort since it already has two important programs of relevance to this effort: The Man and the Biosphere program and The World Heritage Convention.

We look forward to following the progress of this effort and assisting in any possible way towards its effective completion.

Dr. Saif Ali Al-Hajari  
Chairman,  
Doha, Qatar