



## **Extractive industries in 'post-resource conflicts': Lessons from the Pacific**

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40 per cent of intrastate conflicts globally are linked to natural resources. Given the correlation between natural resources, conflict and its recurrence, there is an urgent need to find more peaceful avenues for the extraction of natural resources. This urgency is particularly salient for the Pacific region due to a number of large-scale extractive projects either currently in operation, or under negotiation, in conflict and postconflict environments. Significant examples include the re-opening (and subsequent closure) of the Gold Ridge mine in the Solomon Islands; ExxonMobil's Liquefied Natural Gas Project in Papua New Guinea as well as debates on the potential resumption of large scale mining on Bougainville. A striking feature of these cases is that they comprise new or re-opened extractive projects in areas where natural resources have been directly related to prior conflict and community tension. The entry or re-entry of extractive companies may contribute simultaneously to renewed conflict and to peace building. This paper explores recommendations in the academic and policy literature on how extractive companies can negotiate this two-edged dynamic and considers their relevance to examples from the Pacific.