

**Terra21 Foundation**

# **Annual Report 2014**



*Peace Center operated by Service Civil International Sri Lanka (one of Terra21's partner organisations) in the former war-torn North-Eastern part of Sri Lanka. Three teachers funded by Terra21 are teaching singhala language to tamil and muslim communities at this centre, a simple but very effective way to improve communication and mutual understanding between the various ethnic groups (© Terra21 Foundation)*

*"We must broaden our view of what is meant by peace and security. Peace means much more than the absence of war. [...] it must encompass economic development, social justice, environmental protection, democratization, disarmament, and respect for human rights and the rule of law. Many of these pillars of peace can be identified through the process of dialogue across cultures that is the essential component of a culture of peace"*

Kofi Annan

*"If you want to make peace with your enemy, you have to work with your enemy. Then he becomes your partner"*

Nelson Mandela

## **Welcome to Terra21 Foundation**

*Terra21 Foundation was launched only seven months ago, but we nevertheless decided to publish this first annual report because we believe in transparency and in an open dialogue with our stakeholders. A lot is still 'work in progress' at Terra21, including the format of this annual report. Next year's report will contain more details on our activities, including indicators for the expected impact of our projects.*

*One of our main motivations in launching Terra21 was to give peacebuilding activities in general, and our partner organisations in particular, the visibility they deserve. Peacebuilding in society, which is the focus of our foundation, is a very broad concept and we are approaching it without preconceptions, eager to learn from the many organisations active in the field. As we learn from them, our focus areas will also evolve. We have chosen to start with a particular focus on two aspects that in our view are of great importance for lasting peace: the way a society deals with its minorities and climate change/environmental degradation as increasingly important sources of conflict.*

*Thank-you for your interest in Terra21. We look forward to your feedbacks and suggestions (contact details are at the end of this report).*

*The team of Terra21 Foundation  
Zürich, December 2014*

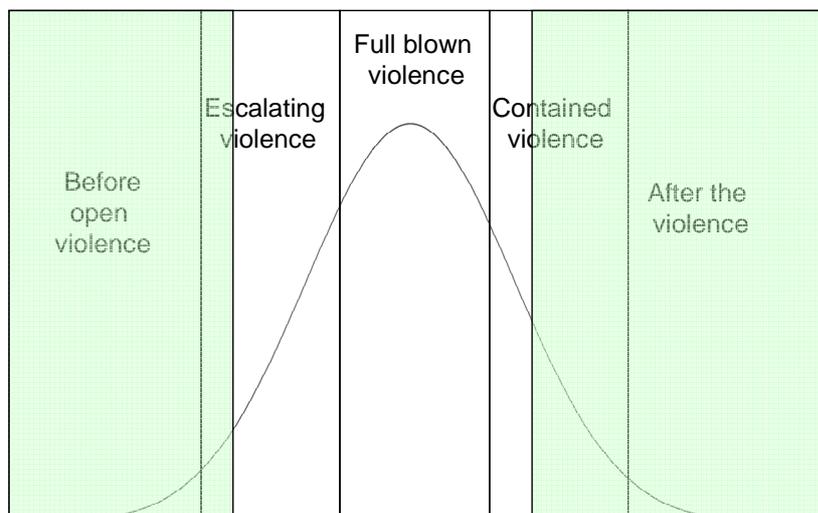
## Mission and areas of work of Terra21 Foundation

Terra21 was founded in May of 2014 by Swiss individuals wanting to support civil society's role in the following areas:

1. Peacebuilding and post-conflict reconciliation
2. Strengthening of the position of minorities in society
3. Environmental protection and adaptation of local communities to a changing climate.

In a world where conflicts (both open and latent ones) seem to increase and not diminish, Terra21 wants to support the great work of thousands of local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and community-based organisations (CBOs) which contribute every day to building bridges between different ethnic and religious groups, to strengthening the respect for minorities, the protection of human rights, the search for truth, justice and forgiveness.

Terra21 has decided to focus on organisations that are working to strengthen a culture of peace before violence openly breaks out in a society or in post-conflict situations with the goal of preventing the cycle of violence starting again (see figure below). These are organisations usually deeply rooted in their communities that have developed effective techniques such as volunteer workcamps, conflict resolution workshops, mediation interventions, processes for making truth, justice and forgiveness possible after a conflict etc. This is an important delimitation of Terra21's scope vis-a-vis organisations (including governments) that are active in escalating and full-blown violence situations.



*Highlighted in green is Terra21's focus against the backdrop of a typical cycle of conflict (from 'War prevention works', Oxford Research Group)*

Some of the projects we support are aimed at strengthening the position of minorities, because the way a society deals with minorities is not only an indicator, but also an important means for achieving lasting peace. We have initially decided to focus on marginalised ethnic groups (through the work of our partner organisation Vicente Ferrer Foundation targeting dālīt and indigenous people in India) and on communities discriminated because of their sexual and gender orientation which usually experience a high degree of discrimination in conflicted societies (through the work of our partner organisation Equal Ground in Sri Lanka).

We are also interested in projects that help local communities deal with resource scarcity, environmental degradation and the consequences of a changing climate, because these are increasingly important sources of conflict. We are currently supporting Service Civil International better integrate sustainability and climate justice considerations in its peacebuilding activities and workcamps. In future years we will further expand our partnerships in this area of work.



*One of our partner organisations is Peace Direct, an international charity dedicated to supporting local peacebuilding organisations. The picture is from the work of Kapamagogopa, an organisation supported by Peace Direct fostering mutual understanding between Muslims and Christians in Mindanao, Philippines, by introducing Muslim volunteers into community organisations across the region (© Peace Direct)*

Terra21 Foundation chooses its partners and projects according to their vision and approach, sound management practices, transparency and experience. Partner organisations must be strictly neutral with regard to religion, race and ethnicity, which is also a core value of Terra21.

We support organisations that not only contribute directly to our mission, but also to better awareness for the issues at stake and to capacity building at the local level. Another criteria in choosing partner organisations is their development of innovative approaches to peacebuilding which can be applied also in other parts of the world. Examples are Peace Direct's Tomorrow's Peacebuilders programme aimed at showcasing and strengthening emerging peace organisations; or Peace Brigades International's and Peacewatch Switzerland's work in supporting human rights defenders.

### **Geographic focus**

Given our limited resources, Terra21 has decided to focus on developing countries, and initially mainly on South Asia, in particular India and Sri Lanka. In both Sri Lanka and India we have identified a strong need for civil society engagement in our three areas of activity. We also observe strong links between the three areas in these countries, which allows for projects targeting multiple themes at the same time. India is a huge country with many open and latent conflicts caused by ethnical, social, religious and economic tensions. Sri Lanka comes from over 30 years of civil war and has barely started a process of reconciliation in society. Both countries have a very lively NGO/CBO 'ecosystem' with many opportunities for Terra21 to team up with great organisations active in its focus areas. But this does not

prevent us from supporting organisations based in Europe or North America, especially if they have programmes targeting our focus region and engaged in an intercultural dialogue, e.g. by sending volunteers to the region. Examples for this type of partner organisation include Service Civil International and Vicente Ferrer Foundation.

### ***The role of volunteer work***

We are generally convinced of the power of volunteer work where people from different backgrounds come together to work for a good cause, thereby learning to live and work together and increasingly developing a deeper understanding for each other and for the local communities that they serve. Because most volunteers are young people, this is also a way for us to support awareness-building and participation of young people, which we believe is a necessary requirement for laying the foundations for a more tolerant and peaceful society.



*Bringing peace building back home. Picture from a peace training workshop co-founded by Terra21 that our partner organisation Peace Brigades International organises at Swiss schools. Students learn about the work of volunteers in countries such as Guatemala, Colombia, Nepal, but then also reflect about dealing with conflicts in their own daily reality in a very interactive way (© Peace Brigades International Switzerland)*

Volunteer work is at the core of all our partner organisations. Over the years, they have developed sophisticated approaches to volunteerism with the goal of not only helping local communities, but also enabling volunteers become 'messengers of peace' when they return to their daily lives. Partner organisations such as Service Civil International, Peacewatch Switzerland and Peace Brigades International are particularly sophisticated in this respect.

### ***The importance of unconstrained funding, long-term partnerships and non-financial contributions***

A problem that all our partner organizations encounter is the fact that most donors earmark their funding to projects and are not willing to cover core costs (for baseline items such as salaries, rent, travel etc.) or giving organizations a certain flexibility in deciding which projects they want to fund (unconstrained funding). Aware of this fact, at Terra21 we have decided not to shy back from unconstrained and core funding, which in 2014 amounted to about 33% of our total financial support.

Besides providing funding, we are also willing to contribute time and know-how if required by our partner organisations. An example is Ivo Knoepfel's active (but non-voting) participation in the selection committee for the Service Civil International Gaia Micro-Grant fund. Another problem that our partner organisations often have is the short duration and 'administrative-heavy' character of many of their donor relationships. At Terra21, we therefore try to provide

multiple year support and follow a pragmatic and unbureaucratic approach in working with our partners.

We are proud that already in our first year of operation we have been able to establish direct relationships with CBOs on the ground. But we are also fond of our relationships with international NGOs (e.g. Service Civil International and Peace Direct) because of their important role in strengthening the capacity of local CBOs and bringing international best-practices to local realities.



*Strengthening the position of minorities contributes to mutual respect and lasting peace in a society. Terra21 supports Equal Ground, a Sri Lankan organisation empowering the LGBTI (lesbian, gay, bi-, trans- and intersexual) community in Sri Lanka by providing meeting spaces, counselling, capacity building and corporate sector outreach workshops. The picture shows participants in one of Equal Ground's Youth Leaders workshops. (© Equal Ground)*



*Logo of the 'Create a Climate for Peace' campaign of Service Civil International. As part of this campaign supported by Terra21, SCI organises a wide range of volunteer workcamps and other activities in different parts of the world (© Service Civil International)*



*We support our partner organisation Fundacion Vicente Ferrer help dālīt and indigenous people in Andhra Pradesh, India, adapt their agriculture and water management to a changing climate (see pictures below). Climate change and resource scarcity are increasing sources of conflict and Terra21 will explore this link further in its future activities (both pictures: © Fundacion Vicente Ferrer)*

## **Organisation of Terra21 Foundation**

To keep its setup and running costs as low as possible, Terra21 has decided to establish itself as an entity under the umbrella of Fondation des Fondateurs, an umbrella foundation established in Switzerland in 2007 (<http://www.fondateurs.ch/en/home.html>). Terra21's Advisory Board (current members: Dr. Lukas Knecht and Dr. Ivo Knoepfel) oversees the work of the foundation and advises the Board of Fondation des Fondateurs which formally takes decisions.

Dr. Ivo Knoepfel is in charge of day-to-day management of Terra21. He works pro-bono and also provides office space and all other services needed pro-bono to the foundation. Members of the Advisory Board also work pro-bono. For its services, Fondation des Fondateurs charges Terra21 a fee of 5% of its total grant volume in any given year. 95% of Terra21's funds are therefore directly used in support of its mission. In 2014, because of setup costs, the fee charged by Fondation des Fondateurs was higher (about 13% of grants disbursed).

## **Main activities during 2014**

2014 has been a very intense year, both in terms of launching the foundation (including establishing the collaboration with Fondation des Fondateurs, finalising the vision, strategy and organisation, setting up all administrative processes) and of identifying an initial group of partner organisations and projects (including researching the field, screening organisations, selecting partners, evaluating projects, negotiating the terms and conditions of the collaboration).

Already in our first year, we have been able to establish partnerships with seven organisations. This would not have been possible without the research and the contacts that took place already in the years preceding the launch of Terra21. Our partner organisations and the projects supported by Terra21 are listed on the next page.

The Advisory Board met three times during 2014: in May to finalise the mission and strategy, in August to decide on the first batch of partner organisations and projects, and in December to finalise this annual report for 2014.

To research the field and meet local organisations (in particular Service Civil International Sri Lanka and Equal Ground), Ivo Knoepfel visited India and Sri Lanka in December 2013 and then Sri Lanka again in April 2014. Meetings with all other partner organisations took place in Europe in the course of the Summer.

## **Contact**

We are interested in your feedbacks, suggestions and questions.  
Please write to:

Terra21 Foundation  
[terra21foundation@hotmail.com](mailto:terra21foundation@hotmail.com)

If you want to support our work through a donation (Terra21 has tax-exempt status in Switzerland), please also contact us by sending an email to the address above.

## Partner organisations and projects supported during 2014

Partner organisation	% of 2014 grant volume	Regional focus	Type of organisation		Terra21 focus areas			Type of project funded	% of grant going to unconstrained funding
			International NGO	Local CBO	Peace-building	Minorities	Env. and climate		
<b>Service Civil International (headquarters)</b> <a href="http://www.sciint.org">www.sciint.org</a>	16%	Developing countries globally	x		x		x	Terra21 supports SCI's Gaia award scheme, which provides small grants to local SCI branches and partner organisations in their effort to integrate environmental and climate justice considerations in their peacebuilding work and their support of local communities. Since its launch in Sept. 2014, applications from India, Indonesia, Malaysia and Kosovo have been received and are being processed.	0%
<b>Peace Direct</b> <a href="http://www.peacedirect.org">www.peacedirect.org</a>	12%	Developing countries globally	x		x			Unconstrained funding for this international charity providing support to local peacebuilding organisations in nine countries. Peace Direct also runs Tomorrow's Peacebuilders, a new award recognising the best emerging local peace organisations in conflict-affected countries.	100%
<b>Peace Brigades International</b> <a href="http://www.peacebrigades.org">www.peacebrigades.org</a>	18%	Switzerland and developing countries globally	x		x			Terra21 supports a range of workshops that PBI organises at Swiss schools aimed at raising awareness for peacebuilding work and dealing with conflicts both in developing countries and at home in Switzerland. The workshops also motivate youth to volunteer for peace.	10%
<b>Peace Watch Switzerland</b> <a href="http://www.peacewatch.ch">www.peacewatch.ch</a>	7%	Developing countries globally	x		x			Unconstrained funding that PWS is using to expand its activities aimed at sending Swiss volunteers to accompany human rights defenders in crisis regions, especially in Latin America (Guatemala, Honduras, Colombia) and the Middle East	100%
<b>Service Civil International Sri Lanka</b> <a href="http://www.scisl.org">www.scisl.org</a>	20%	Sri Lanka		x	x	x	x	Funding of additional volunteer workcamps in former war-affected Northern and North-Eastern provinces, as well as funding of volunteers teaching Sinhala to Tamil and Muslim students to improve mutual understanding.	10%
<b>Equal Ground</b> <a href="http://www.equal-ground.org">www.equal-ground.org</a>	16%	Sri Lanka		x		x		Core funding and targeted funding for activities aimed at empowering the LGBTI community in Sri Lanka by providing meeting spaces, counselling, capacity building and corporate sector outreach workshops	65%
<b>Fundacion Vicente Ferrer</b> <a href="http://www.fundacionvicenteferrer.org">www.fundacionvicenteferrer.org</a>	11%	India	x	x	x	x		Through this project funded by Terra21, FVF helps dalit and indigenous people in Andhra Pradesh adapt their agriculture and water management to a changing climate. This is coupled with healthcare, education and livelihood support.	0%