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*'Understanding volcanoes and society: the key for risk mitigation'*



## Volcano Disaster Diplomacy

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Could a volcanic eruption in a war zone lead to peace? Could monitoring a volcano and analysing its risk potential bring together communities in conflict? Disaster diplomacy explores such questions by investigating how and why disaster-related activities do and do not induce cooperation amongst enemies. Disaster-related activities include pre-disaster actions such as mitigation, monitoring, prevention, and preparedness as well as post-disaster actions such as response, recovery, and reconstruction. The disaster diplomacy evidence so far suggests that, while disaster-related activities do not create fresh diplomatic opportunities in the long-term, they might catalyse ongoing diplomatic action in the short-term. This presentation explores volcano disaster diplomacy case studies, for both disaster risk reduction and disaster response, explaining the disaster diplomacy contributions of and disaster diplomacy possibilities from volcanic eruptions. Examples are Mount Nyiragongo, DRC; various volcanoes in the Philippines; and Mt. Paektu on the China-North Korea border. The work so far confirms the main disaster diplomacy conclusions that disaster-related activities sometimes catalyse, but do not create, new diplomacy. The volcano case studies particularly emphasise the role which science diplomacy does and does not play.