**Religious Norms**

**Old Testament**: “When you are at war, and lay siege to a city for a long time in order to take it, do not destroy its trees by taking the axe to them, for they provide you with food; you shall not cut them down. The trees of the field are not men that you should besiege them.” -- Deuteronomy 20:19

**Judaism**: Principle of *bal tashchit*, a rabbinic interpretation enjoining environmental waste and destruction.

**Islam**: “Do not cut down trees and do not kill animals except for food (in the enemy territory).” -- Tabari, Exegesis of the Qur’an

Some Muslim armies included an officer charged with protecting trees and ensuring prisoners of war are given water.

**Buddhist** and **Hindu** principle of *ahimsa*, mandating avoiding unnecessary harm

→ Influences international law
International Law Protecting the Environment during Armed Conflict

International Humanitarian Law
- Protecting the environment during armed conflict
- Constraining inhumane weapons
- Protecting civilian objects and property
- Protecting cultural objects
- Protecting industrial installations containing dangerous forces
- Limiting targeted areas (under occupation, neutral territories, demilitarized zones)

International Criminal Law
- Rome Statute

International Environmental Law

International Human Rights Law

International Security Law
- UN Charter, UNSC Resolutions
Gaps

Limited provisions

“Long-term, widespread and severe”

- Not defined

- Unclear whether how much damage would be covered

Noninternational armed conflict

Conflict resources

- Pillage?

(Until 20 years ago) Implementation and Enforcement
Implementation Measures

Military guidelines, manuals, and training

Lawyers involved in reviewing ("scrubbing") proposed targets

Investigation of impacts

Enforcement

Ad hoc tribunals
- Nuremberg (scorched earth, pillage)
- International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (pillage)
- Special Court for Sierra Leone (pillage)
- United Nations Compensation Commission (pillage, environmental damage)
- International Court of Justice (re Kosovo; DRC)
- International Criminal Court
- Domestic courts (increasingly for trade in conflict resources)
Growing Attention to the Environment in Post-Conflict Peacebuilding

- 150 case studies and analyses
- By 225 authors from 50 countries
- In 6 edited books, totaling 3900+ pages (Earthscan 2012-2016)
  - All cases freely available online six months after initial release: www.environmentalpeacebuilding.com
- Drawing upon experiences in >65 countries
- Plus … a seventh, overarching book (Cambridge University Press 2017)
Changing Nature of Armed Conflict and Environmental Damage

Noninternational armed conflict
Episodic and prolonged ("never ending wars")
Internationalized noninternational (e.g., DRC)
Non-inter-national international
→ Dual use justifications

Rise of conflict resources
  Breakdown of governance
  Impacts on water, land, biodiversity

Weaponry
  Depleted uranium
Protection of the Environment in Relation to Armed Conflicts

- Before (2014)
- During (2015)
- After (2016)
- Draft Principles

Amb. Marie Jacobsson
Special Rapporteur
Toward a Framework for Environmental Peacebuilding
Environmental Peacebuilding

The process of governing and managing natural resources and the environment to support durable peace.

• Across the conflict lifecycle
  • efforts to prevent, mitigate, resolve, and recover from violent conflict

• Involves
  • renewable natural resources (such as land, water, and fisheries)
  • non-renewable natural resources (such as minerals, oil, and gas)
  • ecosystems (including their services)
Environmental Dimensions in the Peace and Security Continuum

- Environmental Impacts
  - Weapon of war
  - Damaged by conflict
  - Incentive for peace spoiling
  - Illegal exploitation and trade

- Environmental Drivers
  - Fueling and financing conflict
  - Causing tensions and grievances

- Environmental Recovery
  - Economic incentive for peacemaking
  - Employment and livelihoods
  - Revenues and basic services

- Environmental Peacebuilding
  - Entry point for dialogue
  - Good resource governance
  - Preventive diplomacy/early warning

- Time

- Conflict Intensity
Institutionalizing Environmental Peacebuilding

Environmental Peacebuilding Knowledge Platform (www.environmentalpeacebuilding.org)

Environmental Peacebuilding Community of Practice (Google Group, Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook; > 2600 people)

*Environmental Peacebuilding Update* (every 2 weeks)

Environmental Peacebuilding Academy

Annual lecture and award on environmental peacebuilding

Communities of practice

Operational guidance

Massive open online course (MOOC)

On the horizon: a peer-reviewed journal and an annual conference
SDGs and Environmental Peacebuilding

Mitigating

- Reduce pollution and chemicals – c.f. e.g. mercury in artisanal mining (SDG 3.9, 6.3, 12.4)
- Combat and end environmental crime, poaching and trafficking (SDG 15.7, 15.c) – contributing to fuelling conflicts and fragility
- Reduce illicit financial flows and corruption (SDG 16.4, 16.5) – often fuelling conflicts and fragility
- Combat deforestation and degradation of protected areas (SDG 15.2, 15.5)
- Combatting climate change (SDG 13) – exacerbating fragility risks

Equitable and inclusive participation (SDG 16.7), including for women (SDG 5.a) and indigenous peoples (SDG 2.3)

Access to information, data and transparency (SDG 16.6, SDG 16.10)

Good resource management (SDG 12.2) and inclusive decision-making (SDG 16.7)

Enabling institutions and dispute resolution (SDG 16.a and 16.8)

Equitable access and benefit-sharing for women (SDG 5.a) and indigenous peoples (SDG 2.3)
Many of the SDGs are necessary for peace (SDG 16)

Peace (SDG 16) is an enabling condition for other SDGs

Post-conflict peacebuilding provides a window of opportunity

Avoiding pigeonholes

In design

In monitoring and evaluation
Thank you!

www.environmentalpeacebuilding.org