The environment is considered the physical, chemical and biological conditions that make possible and are propitious to the life of living creatures. It is prohibited to use methods [1] or means of warfare [2] which are intended or may be expected to cause widespread, long-term and severe damage to the natural environment and thereby to prejudice the health or survival of the population. Attacks [3] against the natural environment by way of reprisals [4] are also prohibited.

**OUTLINE**

Chapter 9. II. 9. Protected objects, c) the natural environment [5]

Chapter 9. II. 9. Protected objects [8]

**LEGAL SOURCES**

protection against widespread, long-term and severe

PI, 35/3 [7] and 55 [8]
prohibition of reprisals

PI, 55

DOCUMENT

ENMOD

ICRC, Protection of War Victims (Para. 3.1.1)

ICRC, Sixtieth Anniversary of the Geneva Conventions

CASES

The Environment and IHL

ICRC’s Approach to Contemporary Security Challenges

ICRC, The Challenges of Contemporary Armed Conflicts

ICJ, Nuclear Weapons Advisory Opinion (Paras. 30 and 33)

Israel/Lebanon/Hezbollah, Conflict in 2006 (Part I, paras 209-220)

Iran/Iraq, UN Security Council Assessing Violations of International Humanitarian Law
BIBLIOGRAPHIC RESOURCES

Suggested reading:


BOUVIER Antoine, “Protection of the Natural Environment in Time of Armed


Further reading:


MARAUHN Thilo, “Environmental Damage in Times of Armed Conflict – Not


SCHWABACH Aaron, “Environmental Damage Resulting from the NATO Military Action against Yugoslavia”, in Columbia Journal of Environmental Law, Vol. 25/1, 2000, pp. 117-140.


Source URL: https://casebook.icrc.org/glossary/environment

Links