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
United States, Status and Treatment of Detainees Held in Guantanamo Naval Base [23]


Iran, Victim of Cyber warfare [25]

Israel/Occupied Palestinian Territory, Occupation and Natural Resources [26]

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


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

**Links**
