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

CIHL, 44 [9]-45 [10]

PI, 55 [8]

DOCUMENT

ENMOD [11]

ICRC, Protection of War Victims [12] (Para. 3.1.1 [13])

ICRC, Sixtieth Anniversary of the Geneva Conventions [14]

CASES

The Environment and IHL [15]

ICRC's Approach to Contemporary Security Challenges [16]

ICRC, The Challenges of Contemporary Armed Conflicts [17]

ICJ, Nuclear Weapons Advisory Opinion [18] (Paras. 30 and 33 [19])


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]

BIBLIOGRAPHIC RESOURCES

Suggested reading:


Further reading:


BOSTIAN Ida L., “The Environmental Consequences of the Kosovo Conflict and the NATO Bombing of Serbia”, in Colorado Journal of International Environmental Law and Policy


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

**Links**


