

Lesson 3.5



Environment and Natural Resources

Lesson at a Glance

Aim

To show the connection between the environment and peacekeeping, and explain the duties of UN peacekeeping personnel to reduce the mission's harmful environmental impacts.

Relevance

The environment affects you, and you affect the environment.

Climate change is a big challenge and **the UN commits to reducing its environmental impact.**

The Security Council mandates some peacekeeping operations on natural resources, directly and indirectly. The root causes of many conflicts are environment and natural resources.

Sound environment and natural resources management reduces harmful effects to local people and environment. It also improves the health and well-being for mission personnel through quality services in water supply, sanitation, waste management and electricity. Ultimately it **leads to cost savings for mission budgets and Member State resources.**

This lesson explains how the environment and natural resources management are relevant to all peacekeeping personnel.

Learning Outcomes

Learners will:

- Define "environment" and the "do no harm" principle
- Explain why it is important to consider, manage and protect the environment and natural resources in peacekeeping operations
- List the 4Rs as actions to protect the environment

Lesson Map

Recommended Lesson Duration: 45 minutes total

1-2 minutes per slide

Use short option learning activity

The Lesson	Pages 3-30
Starting the Lesson	Intro Slides
Learning Activity 3.5.1: Film: <i>Beyond Scarcity</i>	
Definitions	Slide 1
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The Lesson



Starting the Lesson

Introduce the following (using the Introductory Slides):

- Lesson Topic
- Relevance
- Learning Outcomes
- Lesson Overview

The “Do No Harm” principle is covered at the beginning of Lesson 3.5. Participants may ask about it. Be ready to briefly introduce the “Do No Harm” principle before the lesson. References in the lesson text build an incremental understanding of the principle. You may want to introduce the “Do No Harm” principle in a deliberate, phased way.

Ask participants to share ways they protect their home environment. Through the lesson, transfer those familiar and “common sense” practices in life to the mission.

Learning Activity

3.5.1

Film: *Beyond Scarcity*

METHOD

Film, group discussion

PURPOSE

To consider the importance of natural resources and the need to protect it

TIME

10 minutes

- Film: 5:20 minutes
- Discussion: 3 minutes

INSTRUCTIONS

- List ways water is important in our lives
- What happens when there is not enough water?
- Why is it important to manage the use of natural resources such as water?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3jYr8MFTXrM>

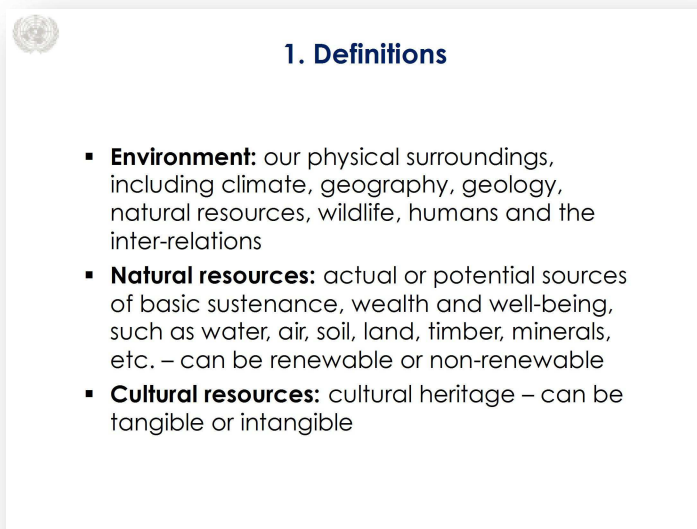
RESOURCES

- Learning Activity instructions

The screenshot shows a white card with a grey border. At the top left is a small circular logo. The title 'Learning Activity' is in bold, and '3.5.1' is in the top right corner. Below the title is the text 'Film: Beyond Scarcity'. Underneath is the heading 'Instructions:' followed by a bulleted list: 'List ways water is important in our lives', 'What happens when there is not enough water?', and 'Why is it important to manage the use of natural resources such as water?'. Below that is the heading 'Time: 10 minutes' followed by a bulleted list: 'Film: 5:20 minutes' and 'Discussion: 3 minutes'. At the bottom is a blue hyperlink: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3jYr8MFTXrM>.

Definitions

Slide 1



The slide is titled "1. Definitions" and contains three bullet points defining key terms. It features a small circular logo in the top left corner.

- **Environment:** our physical surroundings, including climate, geography, geology, natural resources, wildlife, humans and the inter-relations
- **Natural resources:** actual or potential sources of basic sustenance, wealth and well-being, such as water, air, soil, land, timber, minerals, etc. – can be renewable or non-renewable
- **Cultural resources:** cultural heritage – can be tangible or intangible

Key Message: The **environment** is our physical surroundings.

Environment covers climate, geography, geology, natural resources, wildlife, humans and relationships among all these. Some people use the word “environment” to mean “situation” or “context”, for example political environment, security environment.

Natural resources are sources of basic life, wealth and well-being. They include water, air, soil, land, trees and minerals. Natural resources may be renewable or non-renewable, depending on the time for regeneration.

Cultural resources are cultural heritage.

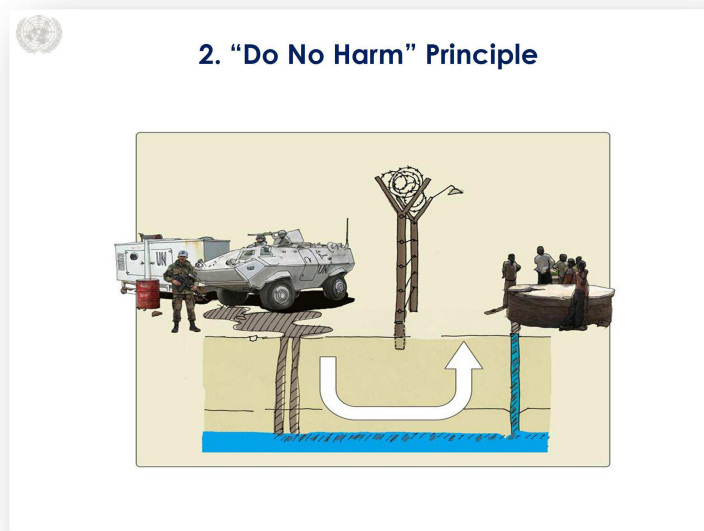
Intangible cultural resources include oral traditions, performing arts and rituals.

Tangible cultural resources include those which are:

- **Moveable:** paintings, sculptures, coins, manuscripts
- **Not moveable:** monuments, archaeological sites
- **Underwater:** shipwrecks, underwater reefs, ships, cities

“Do No Harm” Principle

Slide 2



Key Message: Caring for the environment and natural resources is important. The environment affects all humans. In turn, we affect the environment.

A peacekeeping operation can affect a local environment more than local people:

- Numbers of people, concentrated in one place
- Amount of water needed and waste
- Quantity of buildings and vehicles

The diagram shows how UN peacekeeping operations can impact the local environment and the health and safety of local populations:

- Soil pollution from UN vehicles - diesel or lubricants - can seep into the ground and reach the water table
- Local people may draw water from a well in the same water table contaminated by a mission's hazardous waste

A fence aboveground does nothing. Common natural resources like land and water do not follow fences or other human-made demarcations.

The “Do No Harm” principle means showing respect for the natural environment. Peacekeeping personnel should not:

- Harm animals or plants
- Overuse, misuse or pollute the environment or natural resources

- Harm cultural, historical, religious or architectural sites
- Litter

Learning Activity

3.5.2

Environmental Impacts

METHOD

Brainstorm

PURPOSE

To consider the impact the mission can have on the environment

TIME

Short option: 5 minutes

- Brainstorming: 3 minutes
- Discussion: 2 minutes

Longer option: 25 minutes

- Brainstorming: 10 minutes
- Discussion: 15 minutes

INSTRUCTIONS

- Consider: water, energy, solid and hazardous waste, wastewater, wildlife, historical and cultural resources
- Discuss the impact the mission can have on these

RESOURCES

- Learning Activity instructions
- Responses to discussion questions
- Photos

Learning Activity 3.5.2

Environmental Impacts

Instructions:


- Consider: water, energy, solid and hazardous waste, wastewater, wildlife, historical and cultural resources
- Discuss the impact the mission can have on these

Time: 5 minutes

- Brainstorming: 3 minutes
- Discussion: 2 minutes

Learning Activity 3.5.2


Image 1



UN Core Pre-Deployment Training Materials 2016

Importance of Protecting the Environment and Natural Resources

Slide 3



3. Importance of Protecting the Environment & Natural Resources

- Fragile environments, scarce natural resources
- Helps keep the peace
- Upholds UN reputation
- More effective, efficient missions
- Part of your work

Key Message: It is important to consider, manage and protect the environment and natural resources in peacekeeping operations.

This is because:

- Peacekeeping personnel deploy to places with **fragile environments and scarce natural resources**. A host country and local communities have reduced capacity to take care of the environment.
- **Protecting the environment will help keep the peace**. It is part of direct and indirect mandates and helps protect the health and safety of personnel and local people.
- **It upholds the UN's reputation**. It is important for UN credibility to **walk the talk** on sustainability and addressing climate change. Maintaining this reputation helps the mission's relationships with local people and communities.
- **It helps mission effectiveness**. Results include a) greater efficiency and cost savings and b) improved safety, health and well-being of mission personnel.
- **It's part of the job**. The UN expects all personnel to act responsibly towards the environment as part of the job. Due to its scale and size, the environmental impacts of UN peacekeeping operations are great. Everyone has responsibilities and contributions to make to reduce harmful impacts of mission activities and improve working and life spaces. These responsibilities are both common sense, like what we do at home, and required by UN policies and directives.

Slide 4



Fragile Environments, Scarce Resources

- Post-conflict situations with fragile environments and scarce natural resources – water, land
- Common problems – deforestation, competition for fertile land, poor access to clean water
- Africa, Middle East – low water availability
- Serious environmental, cultural impacts may be a direct result of armed conflict
- Diminished local capacity



Key Message: Post-conflict situations where missions deploy have fragile environments and scarce natural resources. Water and land use may be contested.

Most missions are in Africa and the Middle East, where **little water is available for each person**. The picture is taken in Darfur.

Deforestation, competition for fertile land and poor access to clean water are common problems in conflict and post-conflict settings.

Effects of Armed Conflict: Sometimes, **serious environmental and cultural impacts** occur directly from armed conflict:

- Fumes from burning oil
- Bombed land
- Waste from weapons
- Destroyed buildings
- Contaminated water
- Damaged cultural heritage

Reduced Local Capacity: In post-conflict settings, national and local capacities for environmental management are often weak. Examples are: collection of waste, recycling, disposal in landfills, wastewater treatment plants.

Peacekeeping missions affect the environment. Missions can be the largest users of natural resources like water, land and energy in a given location because of size. The

“Do no harm” principle requires peacekeeping personnel to not over consume, misuse or pollute natural and cultural resources.



Ask participants to recall the definition of “environment” – it includes natural resources. Consider brainstorming with participants the impact peacekeeping operations can have on the environment. Brainstorm different examples of natural resources. Following this, introduce the content, covering any gaps.

The impact of UN peacekeeping operations on the environment is extensive. A peacekeeping operation affects:

Water: Water is for personal consumption and site-specific communal activities. For example, kitchens, toilets, laundries, washing equipment and sometimes air conditioning.

Energy: Fuel is a big cost for UN peacekeeping operations. Missions rely almost only on petrol and diesel fuel for generators and the 17,000-vehicle fleet, as well as jet A1 fuel for the 257 UN aircraft.

Solid and hazardous waste: A peacekeeping mission creates significant amounts of solid and hazardous waste. Solid waste can include office refuse, construction debris, scrap metal and food refuse. Hazardous waste encompasses medical products, used oil, tires, batteries, electronic waste, stocks of chemicals, explosives and ammunition.

Wastewater: Liquid waste or wastewater include “black water”, sewage from toilets and “grey water”, wastewater from showers, sinks and laundry. Improper treatment and disposal of wastewater may cause environmental and health problems for UN staff and local communities.

Wildlife: UN missions can threaten local ecosystems, including plant and animal species, in various ways that further harm livelihoods of nearby communities. Examples include:

- Unregulated hunting or fishing
- Purchase and possession of dead or live animals and plants
- Construction of structures that block wildlife corridors
- Clearing natural habitats

Coastal and island resources: Coral reefs need to be protected, not broken and taken

Historical and cultural resources: Setting up a UN peacekeeping base camp can uncover historic structures, areas of cultural importance and archaeological sites. Actions of peacekeeping personnel can also accidentally damage or destroy historical or cultural resources.

Cultural and historical resources may not seem a priority, but they are. Examples are: places of worship, ancient settlements, cemeteries and intangible heritage like artifacts.

Cemeteries have important meaning to people from almost all cultures. UN personnel must not trespass or damage them, even by accident.

Example of a case to avoid: Vandalism of ancient cave paintings – MINURSO, Western Sahara

In 2007, MINURSO military observers vandalized several prehistoric archaeological sites in the Western Sahara. Disciplinary action was taken against two MINURSO personnel. The mission had to pay remediation costs. To avoid similar action, the mission has briefed all incoming staff on cultural heritage.

Example of a case to promote: Rehabilitation of Timbuktu Library – MINUSMA, Mali

In 2015, MINUSMA undertook a Quick Impact Project (QIP), with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). This involved the rehabilitation of Imam Essayouti Manuscripts Library in Timbuktu. A suicide bomb attack in the neighbourhood in September 2013 had damaged the library.

The pictures relate to these examples.



Inform participants that the 6th of November is the "International day for preventing the exploitation of the environment in war and armed conflict".

Slide 5



Helps Keep the Peace

- Conflicts fuelled by revenues from natural resources, control of scarce resources
- Marginalization and environmental damage
- More systematic mandates on UNPKO role
- From 1948 to 2016, 19 UNPKOs mandated
- Environmental cooperation for peacebuilding



Key Message: Natural resources contribute to violent conflicts.

They contribute in three main ways:

1. **Revenues from natural resources can fund conflicts.** Primary commodities are oil, diamonds, minerals and timber. Civil wars fueled by high-value, extractable “conflict resources” include: Cambodia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Côte d’Ivoire, Liberia and Sierra Leone.
2. **Tensions over the control of scarce resources fuel violent conflicts.** Fertile land and water are conflict drivers in Darfur, Afghanistan and the Middle East.
3. **Marginalization and environmental damage motivate violent conflict.** Local people do not see the economic benefits from natural resource extraction. Examples: copper mining in Bougainville (Papua New Guinea) and oil extraction in the Niger Delta (Nigeria).

The picture shows artisanal diamond mining in the forests on the outskirts of Freetown, Sierra Leone.

Climate change – a threat to peace and security

Climate change is the warming of the Earth by burning fossil fuels, which releases greenhouse gases such as **carbon dioxide** (CO₂) into the atmosphere. The effect is a change to the global climate. An international climate change conference in Paris in 2015 set a global goal of limiting temperature rise to 1.5 degrees.

Potential consequences of climate change are momentous for wildlife, fish, birds and people. Increasingly, the effects of climate change threaten international peace and security. Water availability, food security, disease, coastal boundaries and population movements aggravate existing tensions and create new conflicts.

Climate change is a “*threat multiplier which exacerbates existing trends, tensions and instability*” posing both political and security risks.

Direct and indirect mandates

Peacekeeping mandates link to natural resources.

From 1948 to 2016, the UN has deployed nineteen (19) **peacekeeping operations to address conflict with clear links to natural resources**. These include: UNMIL, UNOCI, UNAMID, MONUSCO, UNISFA, UNMISS, MINUSMA and MINUSCA

Countries are mostly in Africa, Asia and the Middle East. Resources include diamonds, timber, minerals, land, water and oil.

Patrols and Expert Panels:

- Peacekeeping patrols have combated wildlife crime and illicit trade and provided security in areas with contested natural resources
- Sometimes, missions support an Expert Panel to advise, monitor and report to the Security Council on commodity sanctions

Peacebuilding:

- **Environmental cooperation can be effective for peacebuilding**
- Peacekeeping operations can capitalize on natural resources to contribute to stability and early peacebuilding. Examples are through employment, livelihoods, economic recovery and reconciliation. See examples of Civil Affairs and DDR programmes.

Example - MINUSMA: Mali

MINUSMA is a first in two ways, it:

- Has a mandate for cultural preservation
- Is the first mission mandated to: a) manage the environmental impacts of its operations and b) operate mindfully near cultural and historical sites

Example – UNAMA: Afghanistan

- Pistachio reforestation gave livelihoods to ex-combatants
- Ex-combatants and people in vulnerable groups were hired to reforest pistachio woodlands and conifer forests
- Partners established the Afghan Conservation Corps (ACC). Partners included: the Government of Afghanistan, UNAMA, USAID, UNOPS

Since 2003, ACC has

- Planted hundreds of thousands of seeds and trees
- Rehabilitated irrigation canals and retaining walls
- Improved community capacity for resource management
- In 2006, the biggest pistachio woodland site estimated that revenues from their harvest went up by 65%

Example - UNIFIL: Lebanon



- The UNIFIL Civil Affairs unit supported a QIP on reforestation of over 10,000 trees such as walnut, olive, carob, berry, laurel, pine and acacia.
- Reforestation helped:
 - Fruit production
 - A boost to the bee-keeping industry
 - Shared green space for the community
 - Confidence-building

Slide 6



Upholds UN Reputation

- Action, inaction – affect public perception and acceptance of mission
- UN reputation as a partner for peace leads to better relations

Key Message: The UN has a good reputation as a partner for peace. Upholding a good reputation means **better partnerships** with local people and communities through trust and acceptance.

Individual and mission activities affect public perception and acceptance. This is especially the case when peacekeeping operations take place in areas where natural resources are already under stress. Additional stress to the local environment and people works against mission mandate. Also, credibility depends on the measure of respect shown for local settings and local people.

Examples – UNAMID and UNMISS

- In Darfur, brick production increased dramatically for construction of UNAMID (2004-2008). A UNEP study found that wood consumption to meet demands for peacekeeping and relief agencies was about 52,000 trees lost per year!
- To stop deforestation and pressure on scarce natural resources of wood and water in Darfur, soil blocks are an alternative building material. They do not need kiln firing, reducing fuelwood use, and requiring 30% less water than traditional bricks.
- Following UNAMID, UNMISS has also used soil blocks.

Every action and inaction matters. Large actions and inactions stand out. **However, even small actions by individual peacekeeping personnel are noticed and judged, for example, littering and idling a vehicle engine.**

Improper handling of waste (including wastewater) can pose health and environmental hazards for UN personnel as well as the surrounding local community. Wastewater discharged into water bodies pollutes. This:

- Causes serious health problems
- Affects economic assets – fishing, agriculture

If there is a major incident (e.g. fuel spill or disease outbreak), **the public will see the UN as the main culprit, damaging** UN reputation as a partner for peace.

Example- MINUSTAH, Haiti

In 2010, cholera broke out in Haiti. People identified the UN as the source. The outbreak still affects people in the country and the UN.

The lethal disease killed nearly 9,000 people by March 2015. More than 736,000 cases were suspected in a population of 10 million. Whether or not the UN was legally responsible, Haitians saw the presence of peacekeeping personnel as the cause.

Haiti remains the country with the highest number of deaths from cholera. The UN Country Team, MINUSTAH, and other international organizations continue to support prevention, treatment and recovery efforts.

The lasting lesson is that UN peacekeeping must be environmentally responsible.



Learners may be interested to know about the **Polluter Pays Principle**. The **Polluter Pays Principle** means those who cause the pollution should pay the costs to clean up and repair the damage done.

Slide 7

More Effective, Efficient Missions

- Benefits of reducing the environmental impact – financial savings, health, safety and security
- Raises operational excellence

The slide features two photographs: on the left, two individuals in field gear are collecting soil samples in a rural, grassy area; on the right, a person is standing next to a white UN ablution unit with solar water heaters mounted on its roof. Below the photos is a logo that reads 'GREENING THE BLUE.' in green and white text, accompanied by the United Nations emblem.

Key Message: The benefits of reducing peacekeeping's environmental impact are:

- Increased financial savings for missions
- Improved health, safety and security for local communities
- Improved health, safety and security for UN peacekeeping personnel

“**Greening the Blue**” is the UN system-wide campaign to move towards climate neutrality. **The UN commits to:**

- **Reducing greenhouse gas emissions of its activities**
- **Managing its environmental footprint, e.g. water and wastewater**

Peacekeeping missions have an environmental impact. Missions currently led by DPKO and supported by DFS have **the largest environmental footprint** in the UN system.

“*Greening the Blue Helmets*” is a motto, which reflects the UN’s commitment to ensure peacekeeping personnel have a lasting positive impact on the environment – not a negative one.

The picture on the left shows soil samples for an Environmental Baseline Study in Mombasa. The picture on the right shows solar water heaters on top of ablution units in Kinshasa.

Reducing the environmental impact of peacekeeping is important in its own right. Economic, social and environmental benefits come from a) managing water and waste and b) using resource-efficient technologies.

Environmental and waste management directly affect health and safety of UN personnel and local people. Without sound environmental management, especially of waste, peacekeeping operations risk a public health epidemic.



Inform participants that the website www.greeningtheblue.org is a one-stop shop on creating a more sustainable UN.

As an organization, **the UN needs to improve its practices. All areas can improve throughout the mission's life cycle:** start-up, operations and closing.

Water, Waste, Energy:

- Careful site selection and building orientation in camp design can lead to energy savings and efficiency.
- About 400 Waste Water Treatment Plants (WWTPs) have been installed globally, treating wastewater on-site and recycling water for reuse.
- Synchronized, hybrid diesel-PV generators reduce consumption, emissions and waste.
- A peacekeeping mission can hand over low-impact equipment and facilities to a host country when it closes.

Wildlife – Flora and Fauna:

- Flora are flowers and plants; fauna are wildlife.
- Preserving local flora and fauna benefits **human well-being**.
- Diverse ecosystems are the healthiest and most able to recover after a disaster. Protect indigenous diversity.
- Stray dogs should be vaccinated against rabies and neutered to control population growth. Do not poison or otherwise harm.
- Poachers target peacekeeping personnel and others for their buying power. Avoid wildlife crime, which is illicit trade of endangered species.

Waste Management:

- Proper storage of hazardous materials involves:
 - Area marked as hazardous and flammable
 - Closed drum containers with contents marked
 - Drums placed under roof and on top of concrete flooring as protection against soil contamination
- Missions need to manage waste disposal sites well. A secure area deters food scavengers (dogs, cats, cockroaches). Sites near airports and landing strips can attract birds that disrupt aviation.
- **Proper management of waste is essential for health and safety**

- **Source reduction is key. Even** non-hazardous solid waste is difficult to handle in large volumes, especially when there are no recycling facilities in the host country.
- **Hazardous waste requires extra care:** wastewater, medical waste, ammunition, oils and lubricants, electronic waste.

Fuel Efficiency and Renewables:

- The daily cost of fuel for DPKO-DFS supported operations was US \$1.27 million in 2014-2015
- Peacekeeping depends on fossil fuels for **vehicles, aircraft and most power generation**
- Combatants may target fuel deliveries, leading to loss of life
- Energy efficiency and use of renewable energy results in **cost savings, cleaner air and reduced greenhouse gas emissions (GHG)**

Carbon Footprint:

- A **carbon footprint** is the total amount of greenhouse gases produced, usually expressed as **carbon dioxide (CO₂)**. Greenhouse gases contribute to global warming, i.e. climate change.
- The UN must reduce greenhouse gas emissions through efficiency and renewable energy.
- **Peacekeeping accounted for 56% of the total UN carbon dioxide emissions** in 2008.
- Peacekeeping will continue to produce the most greenhouse gas emissions in the UN. Reasons are:
 - Its size – it has the largest budget, the most personnel
 - The location of work – it is often spread over harsh, remote locations

Slide 8



Key Message: It is **part of your job** to act with responsibility toward the environment.

In sustainable development and addressing climate change, it is important for the UN to **walk the talk** and **lead by example**. Peacekeeping – especially given its size and scale – needs to join in “greening the blue”.

This was most recently highlighted in the HIPPO Report. HIPPO stands for the High-Level Independent Panel on Peace Operations.



See the section on “Responsible Presence” in the HIPPO Report.

Each individual peacekeeping personnel contribute to a lighter carbon footprint.

All peacekeeping personnel should incorporate environmental and natural resources management in their work.

Choose to “think green”.

Directives and Policies

Slide 9



4. Directives & Policies

- Security Council Presidential Statement (2007)
- Chief Executives Board Decision (2007)
- Global Field Support Strategy (2010)
- Secretary-General Call for UN Climate Neutrality by 2020
- Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- Environmental Policy for UN Field Missions (2009)
- DPKO-DFS Waste Management for UN Field Missions (2015)

The slide includes four small images at the bottom: a document page, a meeting around a table, a man speaking at a podium with the UN logo, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) grid.

Key Message: Numerous directives link UN peacekeeping operations to environment and natural resources management.

These include:

- Security Council resolution 1625 (2005)
- Security Council Presidential Statement 2007: On the maintenance of international peace and security, with reference to natural resources and conflict
- Security Council Presidential Statement 2011: On the maintenance of international peace and security, with reference to climate change and security

The 2007 Security Council Presidential Statement stated:

“...UN missions and peacekeeping operations deployed in resource-endowed countries experiencing armed conflict could play a role in helping the governments concerned, with full respect of their sovereignty over their natural resources, to prevent the illegal exploitation of those resources from further fuelling the conflict”.

In addition:

- **Chief Executives Board decision in 2007:** established the Environmental Management Systems (EMS)

- **Global Field Support Strategy launched in 2010:** states “*reduce the in-country environmental impact of peacekeeping and field-based special political missions*”
- **Secretary-General’s call for UN Climate Neutrality by 2020:** advocates “*net zero carbon footprint*”
- **Sustainable Development Goals:** the Post-2015 Development Agenda that follows the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), 2000-2015

Policies guide UN peacekeeping personnel on the environment and natural resources management. All mission personnel need to be familiar with these policies. They include:

DPKO-DFS Environmental Policy for UN Field Missions (2009)

- Signed by DPKO Under-Secretary-General in 2009.
- “**ALL personnel** shall conduct themselves in accordance with the Policy”.
- “**Each field mission**” is to “**establish its environmental policy and objectives and control measures**”. These include mission-level policies, directives, SOPs, Action Plans and Committees. This is for ALL phases of operations.

DPKO-DFS Waste Management Policy for UN Field Missions (2015)


- “*Proper waste management **throughout a mission’s life cycle** [...] is an important part of a sustainable field mission*”.
- Key actions:
 - **Reduce** quantity of goods and material brought into the mission likely become waste
 - Properly manage goods and material already in the mission to **prevent** them becoming waste
 - **Reuse, recycle** or **repurpose** all possible waste
 - Properly **dispose** of any remaining waste
- The **mission remains ultimately and fully responsible** for its own waste

The Code of Personal Conduct for Blue Helmets (military and police)

- “*Show respect for and promote the environment, including the flora and fauna, of the host country*”.


Roles and Responsibilities

Slide 10



5. Roles & Responsibilities

- Each field mission should establish environmental policy, objectives, control measures
- Specific responsibilities lie with mission leadership and key mission personnel
- You are also responsible – you must reflect in your conduct



Key Message: All peacekeeping personnel have a role to play in environment and natural resources management.

Each field mission should establish environmental policy, objectives, and control measures.

Specific responsibilities lie with:

- USGs DPKO and DFS
- SRSG/HOM
- Force Commander
- Head of Police Component
- DMS/CMS, Appointed Official in Military
- Appointed Official in Police
- Environmental Officer
- Waste Management Officer
- Medical
- Engineering
- Property Disposal Unit (PDU)
- Contracts Management Unit (CMU)

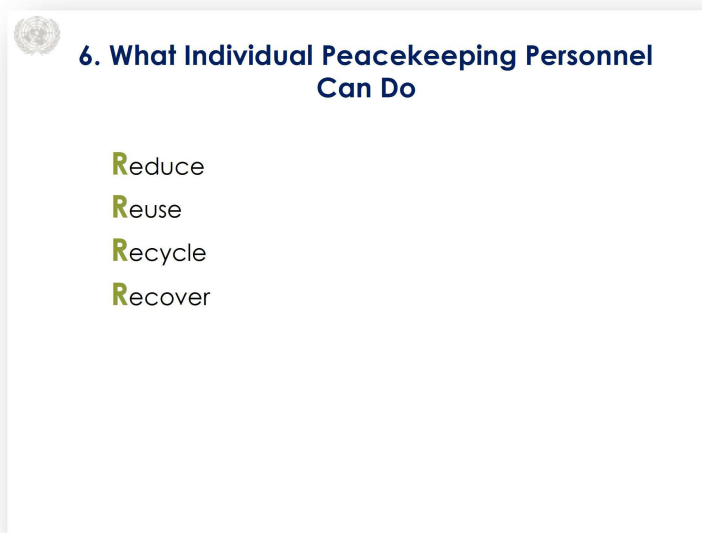
All personnel are also responsible. You must reflect in your conduct.



Refer to the DPKO-DFS policies for detailed information on the roles and responsibilities of specific UN personnel.

What Individual Peacekeeping Personnel Can Do

Slide 11

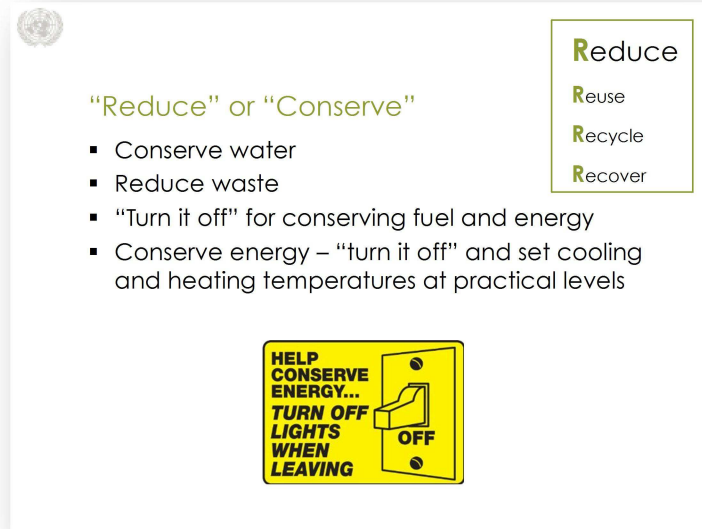


Key Message: All peacekeeping personnel should “think green”. They must conduct themselves in accordance with the four “Rs” – reduce, reuse, recycle, recover.



Get participants to brainstorm the four “Rs” with examples. Discuss how they would practice these at home. Encourage participants to share experiences.

Slide 12



The slide features a small circular logo in the top left corner. The main title is "Reduce" or "Conserve". To the right, a green-bordered box lists the four R's: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Recover. Below the title is a bulleted list of actions: Conserve water, Reduce waste, "Turn it off" for conserving fuel and energy, and Conserve energy – "turn it off" and set cooling and heating temperatures at practical levels. At the bottom center is a yellow graphic of a light switch with the text: "HELP CONSERVE ENERGY... TURN OFF LIGHTS WHEN LEAVING".

Reduce

- Reuse
- Recycle
- Recover

"Reduce" or "Conserve"

- Conserve water
- Reduce waste
- "Turn it off" for conserving fuel and energy
- Conserve energy – "turn it off" and set cooling and heating temperatures at practical levels

HELP CONSERVE ENERGY...
TURN OFF LIGHTS WHEN LEAVING

Key Message: "Reduce" or "Conserve".

Conserve water

- Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth, washing your face, lathering soap to wash your hands or dishes
- Reduce time taken for showers
- Use water-saving measures for toilets and low-flow aerated showerheads and immediately tell mission support of any leaks

Reduce waste

- Use your own water bottle or ceramic mug
- Print smarter: set default settings to double-sided, black and white printing and print only when necessary


"Turn it off" to conserve fuel and energy

- Stop idling: modern engines do not need to warm-up, and restarting the engine does not take more energy
- Turn off the lights and use efficient light bulbs
- Turn off and unplug electrical equipment not in use

"Turn it off" and set cooling/heating temperatures at practical levels


- Use fans with air conditioning for better cooling and comfort
- Turn off the air conditioner when you leave a room
- Wear layers of clothing to stay warm

Slide 13



“Reuse”

- Reuse paper
- Use reusable bags, batteries, etc.
- Reuse water bottles
- Many items called “waste” can be a **resource** – such as tires for soil retention walls



Reduce
Reuse
Recycle
Recover

Key Message: “Reuse”.

This picture is from MINUSTAH. Plastic bottles have been reused to make a waste bin.

You must:

- Reuse paper and print-outs no longer needed or printed by accident
- Use reusable bags, reusable batteries, and other materials
- Reuse water bottles for your next drink – or make a waste bin!
- Many items called “waste” can be a **resource** – for example tires for soil retention walls, food scraps for compost

Slide 14

The slide features a title "Recycle" in green. To the right is a green-bordered box containing the words "Reduce", "Reuse", "Recycle", and "Recover" in green. Below the text is a photograph of four recycling bins: black, green, yellow, and blue. The black bin is labeled "GENERAL WASTE DECHETS".

"Recycle"

- Recycle – recycling bins in mission
- Segregate waste – e.g. hazard waste
- Reduce waste generation as first measure
- Make use of **Waste Water Treatment Plants** to implement water recycling and use
- Compost systems – cooking and food scraps for fertilizer


Key Message: "Recycle".

This picture is from MINUSTAH. These are recycling bins, which can be found in a mission.

You must:


- **Recycle** according to the recycling bins in your mission.
- Separate waste, especially hazardous waste. Oil, batteries, cleaning liquids and medical waste must be handled, stored, treated and disposed of properly.
- Even recycling can be a challenge in missions – **reduce waste generation as the first measure.**
- Make use of Waste Water Treatment Plants (WWTPs) to implement **water recycling and reuse.**
- **Make compost.** Use scraps from cooking and food made. Use fruit and vegetable peels, grass clippings, sawdust.
- Better manage food waste to improve sanitation and protect health and safety.

Slide 15



“Recover”

- Recover materials or energy from waste which cannot be reduced, reused or recycled



Reduce
Reuse
Recycle
Recover

Key Message: “Recover”.

Recover materials or energy from waste which cannot be reduced, reused or recycled.

Learning Activity**3.5.3****Practices, Actions, Responsibilities****METHOD**

Visuals, questions

PURPOSE

To explore environmental issues and good practices in UN peacekeeping, as well as reinforce collective responsibilities

TIME

Short option: 10 minutes

- Group work: 5-7 minutes
- Discussion: 3 minutes

Longer option: 25 minutes

- Introduction: 2 minutes
- Group work: 10-12 minutes
- Reports: 10-12 minutes
- Close: 1 minute

INSTRUCTIONS

- Consider the images
- What are the harmful practices and negative impacts?
- What are the good practices?
- What changes or solutions would you suggest?

RESOURCES

- Learning Activity instructions
- Photos

Learning Activity 3.5.3

Practices, Actions, Responsibilities

Instructions:

- Consider the images
- What are the harmful practices and negative impacts?
- What are the good practices?
- What changes or solutions would you suggest?

Time: 10 minutes

- Group work: 5-7 minutes
- Discussion: 3 minutes

Learning Activity 3.5.3

Image 1



Summary

“Do no harm” – show respect for environment

- The **environment** is our physical surroundings.
- **Environment** covers climate, geography, geology, natural resources, wildlife, humans and the relationships among these.
- The “Do No Harm” principle means showing respect for the natural environment. Peacekeeping personnel should not:
 - Harm animals or plants
 - Overuse, misuse or pollute the environment or natural resources
 - Harm cultural, historical, religious or architectural sites
 - Litter

Protect the environment and natural resources because: they are **fragile and scarce**, **it helps to keep the peace**, **it upholds the UN's reputation**, **for mission effectiveness**, **it is your job**

- Peacekeeping personnel deploy to places with fragile environments and scarce natural resources
- Protecting the environment will help keep the peace
- It upholds the UN's reputation
- It helps mission effectiveness
- The UN expects all personnel to act responsibly towards the environment as part of the job

Take action – reduce, reuse, recycle and recover

- All peacekeeping personnel have a role to play in environment and natural resources management. This includes proper waste management.
- All personnel must follow the “Do No Harm” principle.
- **“Reduce”** or “conserve” water, waste, energy and fuel.
- **“Reuse”** items like paper, water bottles and plastic items – use reusable batteries and bags.
- **“Recycle”** using recycling bins in mission and make use of **Waste Water Treatment Plants** to implement water recycling; reduce waste generation as first measure.
- **“Recover”** materials or energy from waste which cannot be reduced, reused or recycled.

Evaluation

Notes on Use: An example of learning evaluation questions for this lesson may be found below.

There are different types of learning evaluation questions for the instructor to choose from (See Options). Types of learning evaluation questions are:

- 1) Narrative
- 2) Fill in the blank/sentence completion
- 3) True-False

Combine in different ways for pre-assessment and post-assessment. Each evaluation type covers different content. No sub-set covers all learning outcomes. Make sure you include learning evaluation questions for each learning outcome when you combine them.

Three main uses of evaluation questions are: a) informally ask the whole group, b) semi-formally assign to small groups or c) formally give to individuals for written responses.

The lesson draws together information from different strands: environment, natural resources, peacekeeping. Much is new. Consider learning evaluation with the class as a group, not individually.

- Use “call and response” – call a question, get people to build on each other’s responses. This is not brainstorming, which goes fast. Encourage people to take time, think about each question.
- Different responses are correct for many questions – take one response from each table until the question is answered. Encourage people to add more points, especially from peacekeeping experience. Use information in the Responses column to prompt.

Evaluation Questions for Lesson 3.5	
Questions	Answers
Narrative <i>Note: Frame narrative evaluations as questions, requests or directions</i>	
1. Explain main connections between natural resources and peacekeeping.	Natural resources connection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Many conflicts start over natural resources: land, water, energy, oil, gems. ▪ Illegal sale of natural resources fund others: oil, gold, gems.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conditions of mining blood resources are inhuman: slavery, forced labour, exploitation and violations of people's rights. ▪ Terrorist groups raise money by selling natural and cultural resources, antiquities. ▪ The UN often deploys peacekeeping missions with fragile, degraded environments affected by climate change. ▪ Being aware of how natural resources fuel conflict keeps peacekeepers from unknowingly supporting crime, conflict and destruction by buying them, e.g. diamonds, antiquities.
<p>2. List areas of UN peacekeeping environmental impact.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Water ▪ Energy ▪ Solid and hazardous waste ▪ Wastewater – blackwater, greywater ▪ Wildlife ▪ Coastal and island resources ▪ Historical and cultural resources
<p>3. Describe different kinds of cultural resources, heritage.</p>	<p>Intangible cultural resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ paintings, sculptures, coins, manuscripts <p>Tangible cultural resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Not moveable: monuments, archeological sites ▪ Moveable: monuments, archeological sites ▪ Underwater: shipwrecks, underwater reefs, ships and cities
<p>Fill in the Blanks</p>	
<p>4. The four “Rs” of environmental management are ____, ____, ____, ____.</p>	<p>Reduce Reuse Recycle Recover</p> <p>Learners may also answer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reject – <i>don't buy or use products that harm the environment</i> ▪ Repurpose – <i>adapt things to another</i>

	<i>use when you don't need it anymore</i>
5. The _____ principle requires peacekeepers to not overconsume, misuse or pollute natural and cultural resources.	<p>Do no harm principle</p> <p>This covers large and small acts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ not littering or idling vehicles ▪ keeping a small environmental foot print ▪ avoiding buying illegal conflict resources or cultural artifacts. <p>Set a good example.</p>
6. _____ are sources of basic life, wealth and well-being.	Natural resources – water, air, soil, land, trees, minerals.
True – False	
7. Part of every peacekeeper's job is acting responsibly towards the environment.	<p>True.</p> <p>The High-Level Independent Panel on Peace Operations ...</p>
8. A peacekeeping operation does not affect a local environment more than local people.	<p>False</p> <p>Mission impact can be greater:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ numbers of people, concentrated in one place ▪ amount of water needed and waste ▪ quantity of buildings and vehicles ▪ amount of movement and travel, fuel

Commonly Asked Questions and Key Words

Key Words or phrases for this lesson:

Key Word or Phrase	Definition
Environment	<p>The environment is our physical surroundings.</p> <p>Environment covers climate, geography, geology, natural resources, wildlife, humans and relationships among all these. Some people use the word “environment” to mean “situation” or “context”, for example political environment, security environment.</p>
Natural resources	<p>Natural resources are sources of basic life, wealth and well-being. They include water, air, soil, land, trees, and minerals. Natural resources may be renewable or non-renewable, depending on the time for regeneration.</p> <p>Cultural resources are cultural heritage.</p> <p>Intangible cultural resources include: oral traditions, performing arts, rituals</p> <p>Tangible cultural resources include those which are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moveable: paintings, sculptures, coins, manuscripts • Not moveable: monuments, archaeological sites • Underwater: shipwrecks, underwater reefs, ships and cities
Climate change	<p>Climate change is the warming of the Earth by burning fossil fuels, which releases greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO₂) into the atmosphere. The effect is a change to the global climate. An international climate change conference in Paris in 2015 set a global goal of limiting temperature rise to 1.5 degrees.</p>
“Greening the Blue”	<p>“Greening the Blue” is the UN system-wide campaign to move towards climate neutrality. The UN commits to:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reducing greenhouse gas emissions of its activities, • managing its environmental footprint, e.g. water and wastewater.
Carbon footprint	A carbon footprint is the total amount of greenhouse gases produced, usually expressed as carbon dioxide (CO ₂). Greenhouse gases contribute to global warming – in other words, climate change.

Commonly asked questions from participants:

Possible Questions	Possible Responses
Why has natural resources management mandates as a task for peacekeeping operations?	<p>Natural Resources are conflict drivers. Peacekeeping personnel must safeguard against degrading or exploiting water, land, minerals, air, timber and wildlife, cultural and historical heritage. Failure to do so may worsen conflict.</p> <p>Peacekeeping operations must protect the health and safety of personnel and local populations, as well as their livelihoods.</p>

Reference Materials

Below are materials which are a) referenced in this lesson, and b) required reading for instructor preparations:

- [Charter of the United Nations, 1945](#)
- [United Nations Peacekeeping Operations Principles and Guidelines, also known as the Capstone Doctrine, 2008](#)
- [Subsequent amendments to the Model MOU between the United Nations and Troop Contributing Countries \(A/61/19/REV.1\(SUPP\)\)](#)
(Annex contains 10 Rules/Code of Personal Conduct for Blue Helmets “We are the United Nations Peacekeepers” from the UN General Assembly Report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and its Working Group on the 2007 Resumed Session (A/61/19 Part III).).
- [Ten Rules/Code of Personal Conduct for Blue Helmets “We are United Nations Peacekeepers” 1998 \(also see in Lesson 3.3 as ‘Handout’\)](#)
- [Security Council resolution 1625 \(2005\) on Threats to international peace and security \(S/RES/1625\)](#)
- [Security Council Presidential Statement 2007: On the maintenance of international peace and security, with reference to natural resources and conflict \(S/PRST/2007/22\)](#)
- [Security Council Presidential Statement 2011: On the maintenance of international peace and security, with reference to climate change and security \(S/PRST/2011/15\)](#)
- [UN Global Field Support Strategy, 2010 \(A/64/633\)](#)
- [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#)
- [DPKO-DFS Environmental Policy for UN Field Missions, 2009](#)
- [DPKO-DFS Waste Management Policy for UN Field Missions, 2015](#)
- [DFS Environment Strategy \(Executive Summary\), 2017](#)
- [UNEP, Greening the Blue Helmets: Environment, Natural Resources and UN Peacekeeping Operations, 2012](#)
- [UNEP, Protecting the Environment during Armed Conflict: An Inventory and Analysis of International Law, 2009](#)

Additional Resources

UN Information

The website for UN peacekeeping: <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/>

Original Security Council Resolutions on peacekeeping mission mandates:

<http://www.un.org/en/sc/documents/resolutions/>

(You must know the start year, country and resolution reference details for the mission you wish to search for. For this information, identify the name of the mission using the following links: <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/operations/current.shtml>; <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/operations/past.shtml>)

The DPKO website for the environment and sustainability:

<http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/issues/environment/>

The website for UN Environment Programme (UNEP): <http://unep.org/>

Greening the Blue: <http://www.greeningtheblue.org/what-the-un-is-doing/united-nations-environment-programme-unep>

Factsheet on UN Global Field Support Strategy:

http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/documents/GFSS_Fact_Sheet.pdf

UN Documents

UN documents can be found on: <http://www.un.org/en/documents/index.html> (Search by document symbol, e.g. A/63/100)

DPKO and DFS Guidance

The repository for all official DPKO and DFS guidance is the Policy and Practice Database: <http://ppdb.un.org> (only accessible from the UN network). Official peacekeeping guidance documents are also accessible through the Peacekeeping Resource Hub: <http://research.un.org/en/peacekeeping-community>

Instructors are encouraged to check for the latest guidance.

UN Films

UN films can be found on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/unitednations>

[Beyond Scarcity \(5:20 minutes\)](#)

Additional Training Resources

Resources can be found on the 'Greening the Blue' website:

<http://www.greeningtheblue.org/resources>

The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) provides 'Environmental Training':

<https://www.unitar.org/environment>

DPKO-DFS Environment Officers at headquarters and in the mission provide additional information or support on issues covered in the lesson.