

Module 3: Individual Peacekeeping Personnel

Lesson 3.5



Environment and Natural Resources



Relevance

- Environment has impact on us, we have impact on environment
- Health and well-being, cost savings for the mission



Learning Outcomes

Learners will:

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



Lesson Overview

1. Definitions
2. “Do No Harm” Principle
3. Importance of Protecting the Environment & Natural Resources
4. Directives & Policies
5. Roles & Responsibilities
6. What Individual Peacekeeping Personnel Can Do



Learning Activity

3.5.1

Film: *Beyond Scarcity*

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?

Time: 10 minutes

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

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

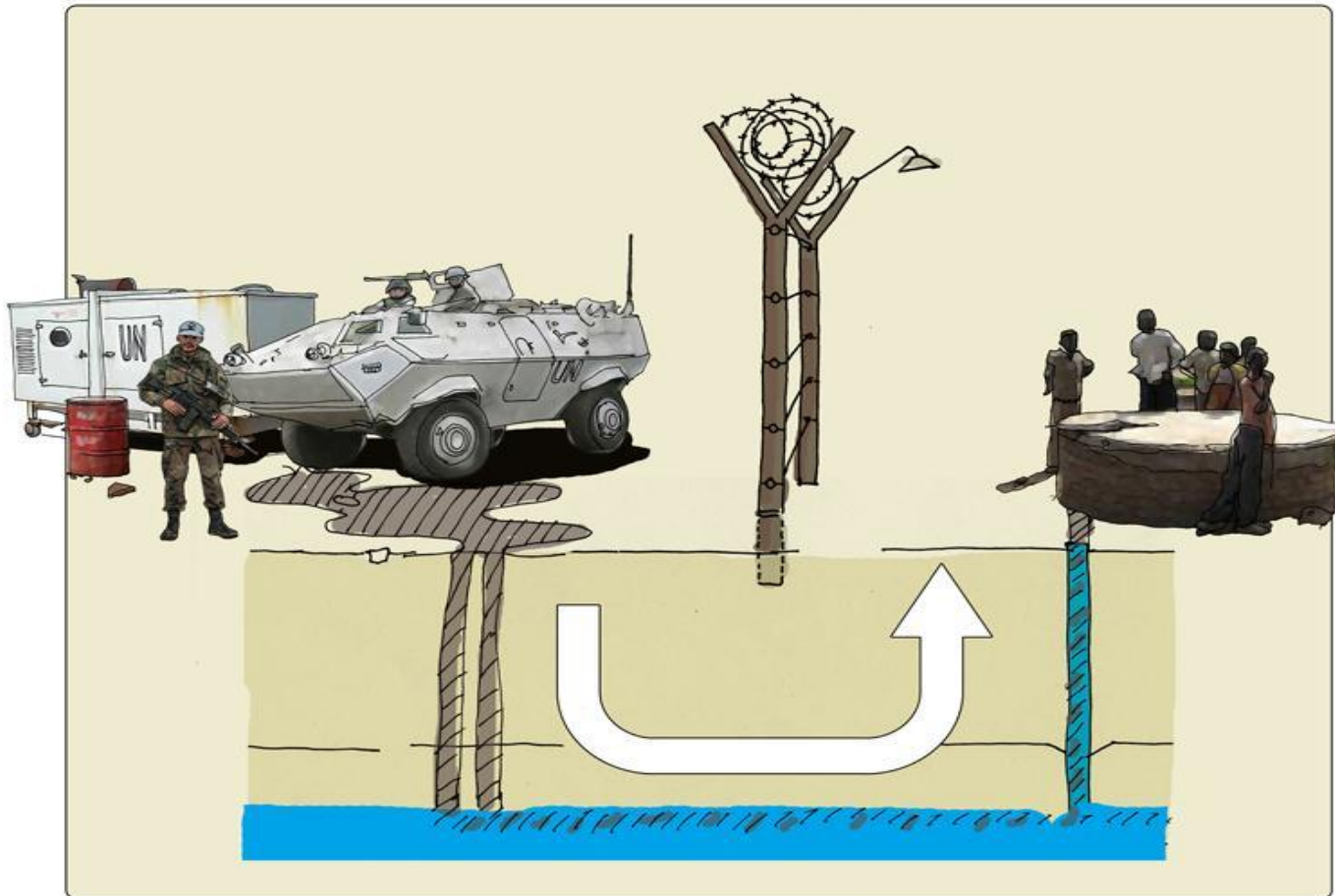


1. Definitions

- **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



2. “Do No Harm” Principle





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



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



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





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





Upholds UN Reputation

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





More Effective, Efficient Missions

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





Part of Your Work

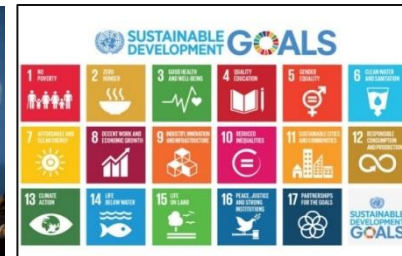
- Walk the talk, lead by example
- UN peacekeeping – part of “**greening the blue**”





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)





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





6. What Individual Peacekeeping Personnel Can Do

Reduce

Reuse

Recycle

Recover



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





“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





“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

Reduce

Reuse

Recycle

Recover





“Recover”

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

Reduce

Reuse

Recycle

Recover





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



Summary of Key Messages

- “Do no harm” – show respect for environment
- Protect environment and natural resources – fragile and scarce, keeps peace, upholds UN reputation, mission effectiveness, your job
- Take action – reduce, reuse, recycle, recover



Questions



Learning Activity

Learning Evaluation