



05.11.2015 – The damage done during conflicts is often measured by the number of deaths and destroyed cities. However, the environment is usually heavily affected as well. Whether collaterally or deliberately, water wells and soils are polluted, forests and crops are ruined, and animals are killed.

Unequal distribution of scarce resources such as minerals or metals and fertile land or water are often the trigger of conflicts.

According to the United Nations Environmental Programme ([UNEP](#)), “over the past 60 years, at least 40% of internal conflicts had a link to natural resources and since 1990 there have been at least 18 violent conflicts fuelled by the exploitation of natural resources. It is also the case that conflicts with a natural resource link are more likely to relapse within five years of a peace agreement”.



[The environment: a forgotten victim of war](#)