



PacificMUN 2017

Special Political and Decolonization Committee (SPECPOL)

Backgrounder Guide

Topic B: Conflict Resources



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Dare to Speak | February 24–26 2017

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Dear delegates,

My name is Rio Leung, and I have been granted the distinct pleasure of serving as your Director of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee at PacificMUN 2017. Currently in Grade 12 at Vancouver College, I am heavily involved in Model United Nations, attending many hotel and day conferences as a delegate and staff member. I remember with great enthusiasm my first delegate experience, with the mixture of nervousness and adrenaline rushing from head to toe as I conquered my fears of public speaking. I believe that Model United Nations has helped me develop into a more confident and social individual.

Throughout my career in Model United Nations, I have concluded that being prepared for a conference by researching and writing position papers will allow for an educational and enjoyable experience. For all members participating in the Special Political and Decolonization Committee, especially those that are beginners, having resources readily available to you as opposed to hastily searching for information during committee session is key to your success as a delegate.

Model United Nations has enabled me to connect with many other passionate individuals, and create bonds that may last a lifetime. I have also amassed an arsenal of ideas and knowledge about current events through every single conference I have attended. I, along with your Assistant Director Kelly Kwan and your Chair Jan Lim, wish you the best of luck in your writing and research, and will be looking forward to seeing each and every one of you in February.

If you have any questions, feel free to email me at specpol@pacificmun.org.

Best Regards,

Rio Leung
Director of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee
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Committee Overview

The Special Political and Decolonization Committee, or SPECPOL is the Fourth Committee of the General Assemblies of the United Nations (UN). It was established in 1993, with its mandate focused on “subjects related to decolonization, Palestinian refugees and human rights, mine action, outer space, public information, atomic radiation and University for Peace.”¹ Including all 193 Member States, SPECOL is united in helping alleviate developing countries’ dependence on former colonizing powers. It has ties to the Special Political Committee formed in 1947 dealing with issues relating to international politics and security. SPECPOL was an ad-hoc committee until 1978, when it became the Fourth Committee after replacing the Trusteeship Committee. When the United Nations declared the time period of 1990-2000 to be the “International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,” SPECPOL was formally modified to become the Special Political and Decolonization Committee.

This committee is an advisory committee, following the trend of the other General Assembly Committees. SPECPOL recommends courses of action to the other specialized agencies, governments of Member States, international and nongovernmental organizations, and the Security Council. It does not have the arbitrated power to pass a binding resolution nor take military action in any circumstance.

The Special Political and Decolonization Committee has a specific and unique role in the scope of the United Nations. While many other committees have a goal of resolving current global issues, SPECPOL aims to heal countries from the impact of colonization and other troubles in the past. The objective of this committee is to bring forth the benefits of independence and self-reliance that have been hidden in the shadows of many countries, and ensure that all countries worldwide are economically, culturally, and socially liberated.

¹ <http://www.un.org/en/ga/fourth/>



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Topic Introduction

“Endless money forms the sinews of war.” -Marcus Tullius Cicero²

Conflict resources are natural resources that are exploited, and in turn, intensify violence in that area. The World Bank defines natural resources as “materials that occur in nature and are essential or useful to humans, such as water, air, land, forests, fish and wildlife, topsoil, and minerals.”³ Most of the resources that fuel fighting are non-renewable, and are found in developing nations.⁴ Since these natural resources are such an integral part of many societies as sources of income, identity, and industry, many developing nations are dependent on these commodities in order for their country to maintain its current state and thrive.

These resources pose serious threats to international stability, and are one of the main causes of wars being waged around the world. With corruption running high in these nations with conflict resources, countries are being torn apart by the influences of the government, independent organizations, and terrorist groups with adverse intentions. As well, the extraction of commodities from war zones is often linked to human rights abuses carried out by a militia force with unadulterated power.

However, the dependence of these commodities is inherent, and the member states of SPECPOL must come to a solution that can reduce the fighting over conflict resources, take control over the external market, and bring development and recovery to nations rich with these goods.

² <http://www.quotationspage.com/quotes/Cicero/61>

³ <http://www.worldbank.org/depweb/english/modules/glossary.html#n>

⁴ <http://www.usip.org/sites/default/files/file/08sg.pdf>



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Timeline

1995	The Khmer Rouge, or the communist party in Cambodia, hit the peak of timber exports, making US\$10-20 million a month, shipping the country's resources to Thailand.
1996	The conflict in The Democratic Republic of Congo commences, resulting in 38,000 deaths every month in the first year of conflict ⁵ .
1996	The Bonn International Center for Conversion (BICC) starts tracking the governance of primary goods that might fund conflicts ⁶ .
1997	Charles Taylor comes into power in Liberia, and sponsors the Revolutionary United Front, (RUF) who are responsible of heinous war crimes and exploiting resources in the area.
2000	Southern African "conflict diamond" ⁷ states meet in Kimberley, South Africa to halt the exploitation of blood diamonds and to regulate diamond purchases ⁸ .
2001	The UN General Assembly declares November 6th to be the International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict ⁹ .
2003	The mandate of The United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) is set out, with its mandate being to protect civilians, provide humanitarian support, and reform justice institutions ¹⁰ .
2010	The US Dodd Frank Act, or the Conflict Minerals Provision, is passed, requiring U.S. companies to determine if their products contain minerals sourced from Congo or its nearby countries ¹¹ .
2010	The Fishing dispute in the South China Sea begins between the Philippines, Vietnam, and China ¹² .
2013	ISIL moves its operations to East Syria to take over the oil fields in the area.

⁵ https://www.globalwitness.org/sites/default/files/import/the_sinews_of_war.pdf

⁶ <https://www.bicc.de/our-work/research/>

⁷

http://www.diamondfacts.org/index.php%3Foption%3Dcom_content%26view%3Darticle%26id%3D128%26itemid%3D134%26lang%3Den

⁸ <https://www.kimberleyprocess.com/en/about>

⁹ <http://www.un.org/en/events/environmentconflictday/>

¹⁰ <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/missions/unmil/mandate.shtml>

¹¹ <https://www.globalwitness.org/en/campaigns/conflict-minerals/dodd-frank-act/>

¹² <https://library.ecc-platform.org/conflicts/fishing-dispute-south-china-sea>



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Historical Analysis

Table 1. Recent civil wars (1990-2005) exacerbated by natural resources³⁴

<i>Country</i>	<i>Duration</i>	<i>Resources</i>
Afghanistan	1978-2001	Gems, opium
Angola	1975-2002	Oil, diamonds
Burma	1949-	Timber, tin, gems, opium
Cambodia	1978-1997	Timber, gems
Colombia	1984-	Oil, gold, coca
Congo, Dem Rep of	1996-1997, 1998-	Copper, coltan, diamonds, gold, cobalt, timber, tin
Congo, Rep of	1997-	Oil
Côte d'Ivoire	2002-	Diamonds, cocoa, cotton
Indonesia – Aceh	1975-	Timber, natural gas
Indonesia – West Papua	1969-	Copper, gold, timber
Liberia	1989-2003	Timber, diamonds, iron, palm oil, cocoa, coffee, rubber, gold
Nepal	1996-	Rare fungus?
Papua New Guinea – Bougainville	1989-1998	Copper, gold
Peru	1980-1995	Coca
Senegal – Casamance	1982-	Timber, cashew nuts
Sierra Leone	1991-2000	Diamonds
Somalia	1991-	Fish, charcoal
Sudan	1983-	Oil

Conflict resources became a problem in the international community in the late 1990's, with diamonds that were increasing hostilities in Angola and Sierra Leone. Despite this, there has been no solid definition of a conflict commodity by the United Nations, with the London based NGO Global Witness defining these goods as "natural resources whose systematic exploitation and trade in a context of conflict contribute to, benefit from, or result in the commission of serious violations of human rights, violations of international humanitarian law, or violations amounting to crimes under international law."¹³ The resources that have resulted in disputes and wars include: minerals like columbite-tantalite, or coltan, cassiterite, wolframite, gold, timber, and oil and gas in areas such as bodies of water like the South China Sea, pieces of land in the Middle East and North Africa region.¹⁴

In Cambodia, a similar situation arose in the early 1990's with the Khmer Rouge led by Pol Pot, the communist party in the country. An insurgent rebellion by the communist group was already in effect, but when the Khmer Rouge began to dwindle in funds, they turned to the exploitation of natural resources, notably timber. By 1995, the Khmer Rouge was exporting timber to Thailand so often that the party was gaining US\$10-20 million a month.¹⁵ Both the Cambodian government and its opposing party began to take advantage of the economic disorder of the country to seize control of the state's assets. In 1996, it was uncovered by Global Witness that the government was discussing a treaty with the Khmer Rouge that would make both parties money,¹⁶ and would bypass export bans to Thailand, the main consumer of the timber. Although this secret treaty fell apart after it was unearthed, Cambodia did not gain independence from the influences of the warring forces.

¹³ <https://www.globalpolicy.org/home/198-natural-resources/40124-definition-of-conflict-resources.html>

¹⁴ <http://www.usip.org/sites/default/files/file/08sg.pdf>

¹⁵ https://www.globalwitness.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/thai_khmer_rouge_links_and_the_illegal_trade_in_cambodian_timber.htm

¹⁶ <https://www.globalwitness.org/en/campaigns/cambodia/global-witness-and-cambodia-key-moments/>



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Historical Analysis

The National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), a political party in the nation, went back on their ceasefire with the Angolan government in the civil war, and thus took control of about 60-70% of the country's diamond fields.¹⁷ Between the years of 1992 to 1998, UNITA effectively dominated the diamond trade in Angola, trading over US\$3.7 billion¹⁸ worth of the country's primary resource. Although the Angolan government was finally able to make peace negotiations in 2002 with UNITA, the damage was almost irreparable. At the end of the civil war that had escalated halfway due to the exploitation of the blood diamonds in the region, over half a million people had been killed, a quarter of the population had been displaced, and life expectancy was only at a stark 45 years.¹⁹

However, Angola is not the only state that has undergone conflicts due to the exploitation of blood diamonds. After the coup d'état of Ivory Coast in 1990,²⁰ the country became a passage for the export of diamonds from Liberia and Sierra Leone because of its geographical location. Foreign positive influences began to withdraw from the country, and although Ivory Coast attempted to halt all diamond mining, this primary resource was still able to be smuggled through the country and to neighbouring states. A trend arises with blood diamond heavy nations, as the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) in Liberia amassed terror, and financed their absolute power through natural resource exploitation. When the UN sanctioned Liberian diamonds in 2001,²¹ Charles Taylor, the President of the country simply shifted his focus to profit from timber instead. It was only two years later in 2003²² that the United Nations finally imposed sanctions on timber as well.

On the flip side, countries like Zimbabwe and the Democratic Republic of the Congo have joined the Kimberley Process, which puts requirements in place for countries to meet in order to legally ship rough diamonds and classify their goods as 'conflict-free.'²³ Nation-wide institutions, import and export controls, and transparency are only parts of the Kimberley Process, which has slowed the exploitation in countries that have become members of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS).²⁴

Over on the other side of the world, the fishing dispute in the South China Sea has become a problem widely associated with instability in Southeast Asia. Territorial disputes between the fishermen of the Philippines, Vietnam, and China started because of the oil and gas rich islands in the sea. More recently, nations in the close vicinity have begun to notice the over-fishing taking place, and experts believe that conflict in the future may be for fisheries instead of fossil fuels.

Although conflict resources are a relatively new complication for the United Nations and the world-wide stage, the variety and extensiveness of the commodities means that leaving disputes unchecked would be catastrophic to nature and humanity. As seen in the poor management and exploitation of these resources, corruption has already settled and runs amok in developing nations with abusable goods. Despite this, there are also instances in which countries have been able to drive detrimental influences out with a helping hand and start the recovery process in which natural resources are exported effectively, and under control.

¹⁷ https://www.globalwitness.org/documents/17815/a_rough_trade.pdf

¹⁸ https://www.globalwitness.org/sites/default/files/import/the_sinews_of_war.pdf

¹⁹ <http://www.sahistory.org.za/article/angolan-civil-war-1975-2002-brief-history>

²⁰ <http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/war/ivory-coast.htm>

²¹ <http://www.un.org/press/en/2002/SC7392.doc.htm>

²² <https://www.iucn.org/content/liberia-timber-sanctions-lift-or-not-lift-question>

²³ <https://www.kimberleyprocess.com/en/about>

²⁴ <https://www.kimberleyprocess.com/en/system/files/documents/KPCS%20Core%20Document.pdf>



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Current Situation

In Angola, the patterns of warfare and dominance have not been removed. After the ceasefire of 2004, the government has continually shipped oil out without the scrutiny of independent organizations. While UNITA has been flushed from the nation, and the diamond industry has lessened in its leverages, oil has become the new conflict resource in Angola. The country's oil revenue is lacking and unaccounted for, with much of the money going into the pockets of government officials close to the Presidency. The investigations of Global Witness has proved that in the span of 1997 to 2001, around US\$1.7 billion a year²⁵ was missing from the national budget. At the time, it was a quarter of the entire GDP of the country, showing the intense corruption still ensuing despite the efforts of the international community.

Cambodia is also being controlled by the same political parties that put the country into chaos, without any signs of change. Both the Cambodian government and the Khmer Rouge have their own interests at heart, and the political disorder that the nation is in proves so. It provides an example of a route that could be possibly travelled by other countries; a path in which the conflict resource overtakes the dispute completely, and becomes the sole instigator for war. In many instances, natural resources have been found and used for income during hostilities, but in Cambodia, the free-for-all of the country's forests is perhaps even more damaging to the region.

The European Union (EU) is also taking measures to regulate conflict resources coming into Europe. Just recently, the European Parliament's development committee drafted a report that "stresses that an EU regulation requiring companies using and trading minerals...should...create a legally binding obligation for all upstream...and downstream companies...to undertake supply chain due diligence to identify and mitigate the risk of conflict financing and human rights abuse."²⁶ As well, the European Commission has also put forth a proposal of self-certification for the imports of tin, tantalum, tungsten, and gold²⁷ to promote responsible trading and reduce the global impact of conflict resources.

Not long after section 1502 of the Dodd-Frank Act required companies to report if the materials used in their products came from the Democratic Republic of Congo, many companies released public statements regarding their support of the sanction of conflict

²⁵ https://www.globalwitness.org/sites/default/files/import/the_sinews_of_war.pdf

²⁶ <https://business-humanrights.org/en/conflict-peace/conflict-minerals/proposed-eu-regulation-on-conflict-minerals-commentaries-media-coverage>

²⁷ http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-14-218_en.htm



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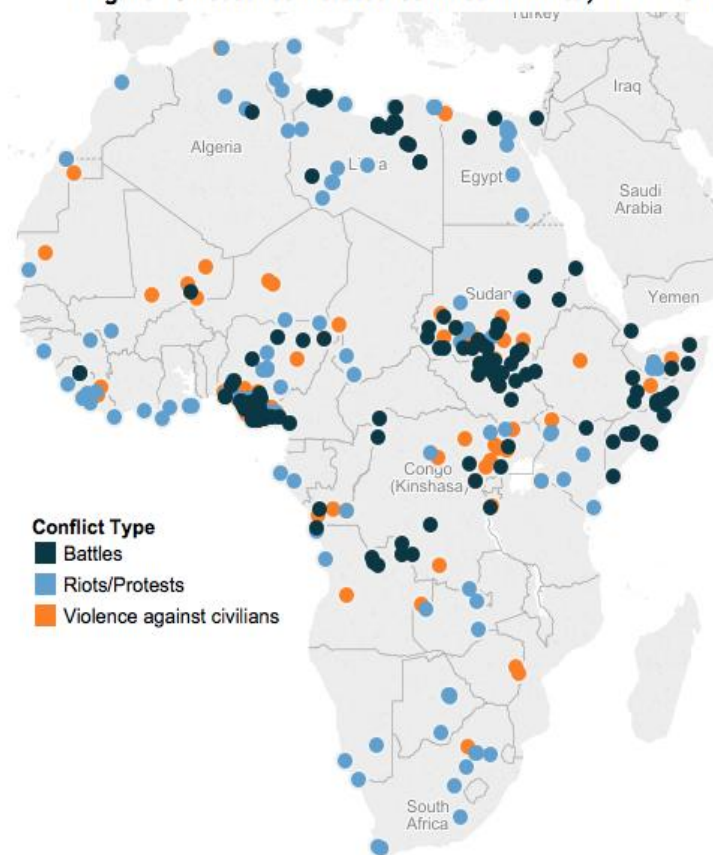
Current Situation

resources, and minerals in particular. Businesses include Apple, Dell, Praxis, Philips, and Avnet.²⁸ However, little has been done by the international community in the region itself.

There are organizations raising awareness and finding solutions for conflict commodities. As well, companies like FairPhone Foundation have tried to create products that, when built, are monitored all throughout the supply chain to prevent disputes from arising. ITRI, a UK non-profit group initiated efforts to track the conflict resources at the mine itself.²⁹ Despite the progressive objectives of the company, funding and implementation problems cropped up, and ITRI was unable to make their idea a reality.

The current situation in many developing nations with exploitable natural resources remains the same. Angola and Cambodia are just two examples of the havoc that has been wrecked in some countries; as long as there are commodities available to be smuggled, traded, and fought over, and these goods remain unregulated, wars will be waged.

Figure 2: Resource-Related Conflict in Africa, 1997-2014



²⁸<https://business-humanrights.org/en/conflict-peace/conflict-minerals/implementation-of-us-dodd-frank-act-rule-on-conflict-minerals-commentaries-guidance-company-actions>

²⁹ <https://www.itri.org.tw/eng/>



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United Nations Involvement

The United Nations has never had an international convention, nor passed any protocols on the problem of conflict resources; however, there have been steps taken on specific conflict commodity prevention for their respective countries by mainly the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) and the General Assembly. While the UN has not yet defined conflict resources, it has laid down the framework needed to guide global action.

The very first resolution passed by the Security Council in regards to conflict commodities was to act upon the civil war in Angola by engaging with UNITA and demanding their cooperation.³⁰ At the time, UNITA was in heated combat with the government of Angola, and was funding its side of the war through the exploitation of blood diamonds. After the war in Angola, the General Assembly passed a resolution directly related to “breaking the link between the illicit transaction of rough diamonds and armed conflict as a contribution to prevention and settlement of conflicts.”³¹ This 2001 session is linked to the establishment of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS) in 2003. The KPCS’ main goal is to prevent conflict minerals from entering the external diamond market. While its intentions and logistics are firm, some doubt the capabilities of the KPCS to reach all corners of the diamond trade. Ian Smillie, a large figure in the NGO community, describes the Kimberley Process as “seriously flawed from the beginning. The Kimberley system of “voluntary self-regulation” on the part of the diamond industry has meant a significant lack of transparency and independent monitoring efforts.”³² Nonetheless, it is a step in the right direction, and shows promise to expand to newly reformed countries free of the warfare associated with natural resources.

Resolution 1625 was the first of its kind, passed by the UNSC in 2005, and “expresses its determination to enhance the effectiveness of the United Nations in preventing armed conflicts and to monitor closely situations of potential armed conflict.”³³ It provided the basis needed for subsequent action in conflict prevention, and prompted the UN to realize the damage that the wars over resources around the world were causing.

In 2007, the Security Council stressed the need for the mandates of the UN to consider aiding developing countries stop the exploitation of their natural resources by corrupt governments,

³⁰<http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/Disarm%20SRES1173.pdf>

³¹<http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/Sanc%20ARES%2055%2056.pdf>

³² <https://www.globalpolicy.org/the-dark-side-of-natural-resources-st/diamonds-in-conflict/kimberley-process.html>

³³<http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/CPR%20S%20RES%201625.pdf>



parties, or terrorist groups. Part of the presidential statement of the 5705 meeting of the Security Council reads, "The Security Council recalls the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and, in particular, the Security Council's primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. In this respect, the Security Council recognizes the role that natural resources can play in armed conflict and post-conflict situations."³⁴ This pushed the UN to actively seek change in their peacekeeping mandates, and resulted in two missions being changed to encapsulate the issue of exploitation of resources.

Several peacekeeping missions have been sent out to provide guidance in managing natural resources in recovering countries. These are the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) and the UN Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO). Both mission mandates were adapted over the course of the conflicts in the nations, and were finalized in 2015³⁵ and 2012³⁶ respectively. UNMIL and MONUSCO are closely linked in their objectives, with their main goal being to protect the civilian population and provide humanitarian assistance. Liberia and The Democratic Republic of the Congo are the only two nations in which the UN has sent peacekeeping forces on a mission directly related to conflict resources.

³⁴ <http://www.un.org/press/en/2007/sc9060.doc.htm>

³⁵ <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/missions/unmil/mandate.shtml>

³⁶ <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/missions/monusco/mandate.shtml>



Establishing Extensive Sanction Tactics

Sanctions should effectively cut off the funds to governments or military groups heavily involved in conflict resources. The success of the UN in their sanctions has been limited, despite the fact that the number of sanctions put in place is on the uptake. The infrastructure and systems that the United Nations uses to monitor and enforce any sanctions are not as effective as they could be. The problem with sanctions is that they are watched over by ad-hoc committees, and the committees are only permitted to review the way that the sanctions are being implemented. Many nations do not have the facilities, prowess, and knowledge to efficiently slow or halt the flow of conflict resources in and out of their country.

As well, since there have been many sanctions initiated around the world, and are most definitely not limited to conflict resources, many of the sanction committees are understaffed and have insufficient funds. The UN also has, more often than not, failed to follow up on secondary sanctions against states that breach the first sanction.

With that being said, sanctions have their downfalls. Many nations afflicted with conflict resources have more than one commodity readily available to be farmed, and sanctioning upon sanctioning could prove to be complicated and difficult. As well, many of the African countries involved in these disputes share borders, which could impede sanctions even

Table 2: UN targeted sanctions on natural resource exports⁷⁴

<i>Country</i>	<i>Resolution</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Commodity</i>
Cambodia	S/RES/792	1992	Timber
Angola	S/RES/1173	1998	All diamonds not certified by the government
Sierra Leone	S/RES/1306	2000	All rough diamonds pending the creation of a certification scheme
Liberia	S/RES/1343	2001	All rough diamonds
Liberia	S/RES/1478	2003	Timber
Côte d'Ivoire	S/RES/1643	2005	All rough diamonds

further.

Enlisting the Help of NGO's and Other International Bodies

While the United Nations holds much power worldwide, it lacks the funds and manpower to provide aid and peacekeeping forces to all countries plagued with conflict resources. There are many organizations situated around the world dedicated to raising awareness and finding solutions, with similar mandates to that of the UN.

Oftentimes, national authorities will not prosecute perpetrators of conflicts due to threats or corruption. In many countries, the government itself is riddled with malfeasance, and the UN



is unable to rely on individual countries to try and imprison high ranking political or military leaders. Finding a solution to this problem could include enlisting international bodies that would be able to serve justice to criminals linked to the exploitation of conflict resources.

However, both these solutions require careful deliberation, as a common definition of conflict resources has not been set in stone yet. International bodies need to be able to have a standard of right or wrong, and without a certain definition by the United Nations, criminals may walk free. As well, guidelines must be put in place when working with other global organizations, as it is easy to confuse mandates. The UN must keep in mind to differentiate between peacekeeping and peacemaking when crossing foreign borders.

Engaging in more Peacekeeping Opportunities

Given that there have only been a handful of peacekeeping missions with mandates directly correlating to the problem of conflict resources, engaging in more peacekeeping missions would be beneficial to the stability and recovery of developing nations with exploitable natural resources. As well, the insertion of peacekeeping troops would mean a deterrence of future tyranny groups taking over once more. Having soldiers deployed in these resource rich areas would mean that legal trade of commodities would ensue, and the supply chain from the resource country to the developed nations would be monitored.

Despite all these positive outcomes, there are risks involved. A developing country needs to be in the beginnings of reformation and restoration when the UN sends peacekeeping troops. If there is still conflict in the region, the mandate of the peacekeepers is void. These peacekeeping opportunities will theoretically be during post-conflict reconstruction, and would have to be directed towards responsible resource management.



South West and North West Africa

The countries in this region are resource rich, but overrun by corruption and terrorism. Almost all of the nations play a large role in the global issue of conflict resources, and the civilians are caught in the crossfire. The governments of these member states want to keep exploiting the natural resources of the regions, and crave the power and wealth that comes from the trade of goods. Negotiations are not accommodated, unless the reigning political party is in dire contention to lose a war.

South East Africa

Many of these countries were formerly known as conflict resource nations, but were able to break free of the political influences that took advantage of the commodities in the area. A few have joined the Kimberley Process, and are still working on halting the flow of illegal resources travelling through their borders. These nations are progressing towards a more stable economy by selling their goods lawfully. While many of the countries in this area have moved past the conflict stage, without proper infrastructure, policies, and facilities to regulate conflict resources, they could still slip back into chaos.

European Union

The member states of the European Union have taken steps in order to prevent the flow of conflict resources into their borders. The EU also supports NGO's and the UN in their fight against the exploitation of natural resources. From drafting reports about the importance of companies checking the origin of any goods coming in to proposing self certification for companies, the EU is in full backing of the war against conflict resources.

North America

North America has also taken steps to reduce and stop the amount of "tainted" commodities entering its countries. Large corporations have taken to publishing reports about the usage and condemnation of conflict resources after the Dodd-Frank Act was passed. The countries in this bloc maintain transparency, while funding services to help developing countries with abusable natural resources.

Asia-Pacific

The nations in the Asia-Pacific Region are somewhat secluded, and are fighting their own battle over the oil and gas in the South China Sea. However, conflict resources are still prevalent, and some countries suffer extreme amounts of exploitation, comparable to the nations in Africa. Countries in this bloc also experience corruption and takeover by a single political party, who then farm natural resources with ease.

South and Central America

The conflicts in this region are more land, water, and mining based,³⁷ but still prove to be a large issue. In this case, wars are fought over territorial boundaries, and the exploitation of minerals or non-renewable resources are less commonplace. All the same, these conflicts are closely linked to crime and major extortion in the government, and must be stopped.

³⁷ <http://www.urd.org/Environment-and-conflict-in-Latin?artpage=2-3>



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Discussion Questions/Further Reading

1. How can political parties and terrorist groups be stopped if they have absolute power and vast amounts of wealth?
2. Is complete monitoring of conflict resources economically feasible?
3. With the commodities being so different, would it be even possible to create a standardized solution for all countries?
4. What will happen if a country runs out of exploitable natural resources?
5. How can initiators of violence be held accountable for their actions?
6. How much will complete regulation of conflict goods affect the global economy, if at all?
7. How can commodities be properly regulated to make sure exploitation does not happen again?

<http://www.worldwatch.org/system/files/WP162.pdf>

<http://www.usip.org/sites/default/files/file/08sg.pdf>

http://www.unepfi.org/fileadmin/documents/conflict/ross_2003.pdf

http://www.uky.edu/~clthyn2/PS439G/readings/ross_2004.pdf

<https://www.kimberleyprocess.com/en/system/files/documents/KPCS%20Core%20Document.pdf>

http://diamondfacts.org/index.php%3Foption%3Dcom_content%26view%3Darticle%26id%3D129%26Itemid%3D167%26lang%3Den



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