

# Ecocide in the Context of National and Regional Security in the Conditions of Contemporary Geopolitical Confrontation of Ukraine

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## Abstract

The full-scale war against Ukraine has brought the issue of systemic environmental destruction to the forefront as a tool of modern armed conflict and has given new weight to the concept of ecocide in the context of national and international security. Large-scale damage to ecosystems, industrial facilities, water resources, energy and agricultural infrastructure demonstrates that environmental damage in wartime is not accidental, but structural in nature and causes long-term socio-economic and security consequences. The article considers ecocide as a multidimensional threat that affects environmental sustainability, public health, economic stability and regional security. The study analyzes the regulatory and institutional status of ecocide at the national and international levels. Special attention is paid to the criminalization of ecocide in Ukraine, the practices of recording and investigating environmental crimes in the context of military operations, as well as the problems of international criminal-legal qualification of large-scale environmental damage. The role of the UN system structure and international financial mechanisms in shaping the institutional response, supporting green reconstruction and restoring environmental sustainability is separately considered. The thesis is substantiated about the need to institutionalize ecocide as an element of the global safe architecture and strengthen international mechanisms of responsibility for military environmental damage.

**KEY WORDS:** *ecocide, international security, national security, environmental security, international law, environmental crimes, green transformation*

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## 1. Introduction

The transformation of the modern system of international security demonstrates the expansion of its substantive boundaries due to the ecological dimension. Along with traditional military-political threats, environmental degradation, destruction of critical infrastructure, pollution of natural resources and disruption of ecosystem balance form a new type of complex risks that are long-term and cross-border in nature. Full-scale aggression against Ukraine has become a catalyst for an unprecedented impact on the environment: the destruction of hydraulic structures, shelling of industrial facilities, damage to energy infrastructure, mining of territories and degradation of agricultural lands create a systemic complex of environmental threats. Such actions have immediate consequences in the form of pollution of water, soil and atmospheric air and long-term effects, in particular, disruption of food security, reduction of ecosystem stability, risks to public health and economic stability. In this dimension, environmental damage becomes an instrument of strategic pressure, which increases the general destabilization of the state.

The concept of ecocide, which for a long time remained mainly in the sphere of environmental and human rights discourse, is now being integrated into the security and international legal agenda. Despite the existence of norms providing for liability for war crimes against the environment, international criminal law does not contain an autonomous element of the crime of “ecocide”, which creates a normative gap in the sphere of holding accountable for large-scale and long-term environmental damage. At the same time, the national legislation of Ukraine provides for the criminalization of ecocide,

which forms the basis for the further internationalization of this category and its inclusion in the global security architecture. An important element of this transformation is the active interaction of Ukraine with specialized structures of the UN system in the field of environmental security, post-war reconstruction and sustainable development. Such cooperation is aimed at institutional strengthening of the state, development of methodologies for assessing environmental damage, integration of the environmental component into reconstruction processes and mobilization of international financial resources. This interaction becomes systemic and combines expert, regulatory and financial and economic dimensions, forming the basis for green reconstruction as an element of long-term stabilization and increasing the stability of the state.

The relevance of the study is due to the need to understand ecocide as a multidimensional phenomenon that combines legal, institutional, financial and political aspects. In conditions of war, environmental security becomes a component of the general architecture of state stability, and the issue of responsibility for environmental damage is an element of the international agenda in the field of peacekeeping and sustainable development. The purpose of the article is a comprehensive analysis of ecocide as a factor of national and regional security, as well as the definition of international legal and institutional mechanisms for countering military environmental damage and ensuring green reconstruction.

## **2. Method of investigation**

The methodological basis of the study is an interdisciplinary approach that combines the tools of political science, international law, security studies and environmental policy. Such integration allows us to consider ecocide not only as a legal category, but as a complex phenomenon that affects the architecture of national and international security. The work uses a normative and legal analysis to study the national and international regulation of liability for environmental crimes. In particular, the provisions of the criminal legislation of Ukraine on ecocide, the norms of international humanitarian and criminal law, as well as international political and program documents in the field of environmental protection and sustainable development were analyzed. This allowed us to identify existing legal gaps and assess the prospects for the institutionalization of ecocide in the system of international criminal justice. Institutional analysis was used to assess the role of specialized structures of the UN system and international financial mechanisms in shaping the response to military environmental damage. Their mandates, program documents, coordination mechanisms and practical tools for supporting states in the field of environmental security, restoration and green reconstruction were studied. The method of systems analysis allowed us to consider ecocide as an element of a broader security ecosystem, which includes environmental, economic, social and political components. In addition, elements of discursive analysis were applied to study the integration of the concept of "ecocide" into the international political agenda and its transformation from an environmental category into a component of global security policy. The combination of these methods ensures the complexity of the study and allows us to form a holistic vision of ecocide as a multidimensional challenge to the modern system of international relations.

## **3. Investigation Results**

*The concept of ecocide.* The concept of "ecocide" is usually considered as a deliberate or negligent act of large-scale and long-term damage to the natural environment, which poses a serious threat to human life, biodiversity and the functioning of ecosystems. It includes actions aimed at the mass destruction of flora or fauna, pollution of water resources and the atmosphere, soil degradation, destruction of forests and other natural environments, as well as other forms of ecological destruction that can cause catastrophic consequences for the environment and society. Much attention in modern discourse is attracted by cases of ecocide that occur as a result of military actions, when combat operations, shelling of industrial and civilian facilities, forest fires and destruction of infrastructure lead to long-term pollution of territories. Such actions have both local and transnational consequences, as large-scale environmental damage affects climate stability, food security, and public health at the regional and global levels.

The concept of ecocide has acquired particular importance in the context of the full-scale invasion of the Russian Federation and the unprecedented environmental consequences of military operations, which is defined as a crime against the environment, that is, the mass destruction of ecosystems caused by anthropogenic factors, which has catastrophic consequences for the environment, humanity, and indirectly affects climate change. An example of ecocide is the devastating attack on the Kakhovka Dam in June 2023, which led to large-scale flooding of the territories of the Kherson region, the destruction of the coastal ecosystems of the Dnieper, the death of a significant number of flora and fauna, including species listed in the Red Book of Ukraine, the contamination of soils and water resources with oil products, heavy metals and ammunition residues, as well as the disruption of the functioning of agro-ecosystems, irrigation systems and centralized water supply for the population of the southern regions. Examples of large-scale environmental damage that can be classified as ecocide are the systematic shelling of oil depots and chemical enterprises, which caused emissions of toxic substances into the atmosphere, mining and degradation of agricultural lands, which makes their safe use impossible, as well as damage to energy infrastructure facilities, which creates risks of man-made accidents and secondary environmental pollution. The combination of such actions has long-term consequences for environmental safety, public health and economic sustainability of regions, forming a systemic threat to the restoration of the natural environment and the sustainable development of the state. Accordingly, in this context, the concept of ecocide is gradually integrated into the political, legal and security discourse at the national, international legal and diplomatic levels [1].

*Regulatory design of the concept of ecocide.* At the national level, one of the defining steps in the regulatory design of the concept of ecocide in Ukraine was its consolidation at the level of criminal legislation. According to Article 441 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine, ecocide is qualified as a socially dangerous act, which consists in the mass destruction of flora or fauna, poisoning of the atmosphere or water resources, as well as in the commission of other actions that may cause an ecological disaster [2]. The norm provides for a penalty in the form of imprisonment for a term of eight to fifteen years, which indicates a high degree of social danger of such acts and their systemic nature in the legal order of Ukraine. It is believed that the historical impetus for the development of a national regulatory framework on ecocide was the Chernobyl accident in 1986, the consequences of which demonstrated the need for a legal definition of large-scale environmental damage and its long-term impact on human health and ecosystems. Today, Ukraine is actively recording the environmental crimes of the Russian Federation, working with international experts to calculate the damage caused to ecosystems, and lobbying for the inclusion of the concept of ecocide in international criminal law to hold the Russian Federation accountable [3]. In addition, the consequences of shelling and arson of forests, the destruction of industrial facilities with emissions of toxic substances, and the pollution of rivers and reservoirs are documented.

Despite its frequent use in international environmental discussions, the concept of ecocide is not currently officially recognized as a separate crime in international law, in particular the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court [4]. The jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court is limited to four categories of the most serious international crimes: genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and the crime of aggression. Therefore, the current version of the Statute does not contain an independent element of the crime that would directly cover large-scale destruction of the environment regardless of the context. However, environmental damage is partially taken into account within the framework of the regulation of war crimes. Article 8 of the Rome Statute establishes criminal liability for the intentional commission of an attack if it is known that it will cause widespread, long-term and serious damage to the natural environment, which is clearly excessive in comparison with the expected concrete and direct military advantage. This provision is related to the principle of proportionality of international humanitarian law and provides for a high standard of proof of both objective consequences and subjective awareness of their inevitability. At the same time, this norm applies exclusively in the context of an international armed conflict and does not form an autonomous element of “ecocide” as a crime against the environment in a general sense.

In the international legal and political environment, a discussion is ongoing regarding the possibility of amending the Statute in order to introduce ecocide as a fifth international crime. The implementation of such an initiative requires compliance with the formal procedure for amending in accordance with the provisions of the Statute, their adoption by the participating States and subsequent ratification at the national level. Only after the completion of this process can the new element of the crime acquire legal force in the system of international criminal law.

Ukraine has publicly supported the initiative to include ecocide in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, but has not yet completed the formal procedure for introducing an amendment on its own behalf. After ratifying the Statute and acquiring the status of a State Party to the International Criminal Court from January 1, 2025, Ukraine received the right to initiate amendments in accordance with Article 121 of the Statute. Representatives of the Ukrainian authorities have repeatedly stated their support for the idea of criminalizing ecocide at the international level, given the large-scale environmental consequences of armed aggression against Ukraine. This position is reflected in diplomatic statements, participation in international forums, and coordination with states that promote the relevant initiative. In this context, the initiative to include ecocide in the list of international crimes acquires conceptual significance. Ukraine’s support for such an initiative reflects the position that large-scale environmental destruction poses a threat to international security and requires institutionalized responsibility at the level of international criminal law. At the same time, it should be noted that the introduction of a new crime into the Statute requires broad support from the participating States and complex procedural work. As of now, Ukraine is among the states that politically support the criminalization of ecocide, but the formal process of adopting the amendment is at the stage of international discussion and is not completed.

*Ukraine’s interaction with specialized UN structures in the field of environmental security.* Effective counteraction to ecocide involves synchronizing national actions with international mechanisms for assessing damage, developing environmental liability standards, and implementing green recovery strategies. In this context, specialized structures of the UN system play a key role, providing expert, regulatory, and financial support to states in the field of decarbonization, environmental management, and post-war recovery, forming an institutional foundation for systematic counteraction to ecocide.

Ukraine’s interaction with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is gaining importance in the context of building the state’s institutional capacity to respond to the consequences of war ecocide and integrate environmental security into recovery policies. After 2022, UNDP has become one of the key partners of the Ukrainian government in developing framework documents for post-war reconstruction, including approaches to “Build Back Better” and implementing the principles of green transformation in the processes of infrastructure reconstruction and local self-government. In particular, within the framework of programs to support government institutions, UNDP provides analytical support for the integration of environmental criteria into regional development plans, as well as capacity building of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine to assess damage caused to ecosystems. An essential element of cooperation is the development of methodological approaches to the assessment of environmental damage resulting from hostilities. UNDP provides expert support in the implementation of tools for monitoring the impact of hostilities on the environment, including through the use of geographic information systems, satellite analysis and standardized damage accounting procedures. As part of the regional initiative EU4Climate, implemented by UNDP with the

support of the European Union, Ukraine updated its Nationally Determined Contribution to the Paris Agreement (2021), strengthening climate commitments and integrating the environmental security component into a long-term decarbonization policy [5]. This decision has increased international confidence in Ukrainian climate policy and created the prerequisites for attracting financial resources for green reconstruction.

A separate area of UNDP activity in Ukraine is supporting the reconstruction of communities affected by military actions, including environmental standards in the reconstruction process of critical infrastructure facilities. This includes the modernization of water supply systems, energy-efficient reconstruction of buildings, and the introduction of renewable energy sources at the level of territorial communities [6]. Such projects reduce long-term environmental risks, minimize man-made threats, and form the basis for stabilizing regions that have suffered environmental losses. In the security dimension, green reconstruction with UNDP support serves as a tool for post-conflict stabilization, as it combines infrastructure restoration with environmental modernization and increased resilience to future risks.

Ukraine's cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is important for the international expert assessment of environmental damage caused by military actions and the formation of an evidentiary base for the further legal qualification of environmental crimes. In 2022–2023, UNEP carried out a preliminary assessment of the impact of the war on the environment of Ukraine (Ukraine Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment; Ukraine Environmental Impact Assessment), recording large-scale damage to industrial facilities, contamination of soil and water resources, risks to biodiversity and long-term consequences for ecosystems. It should be noted that the involvement of international experts in such assessments ensures the standardization of methodologies, increases the legitimacy of data and creates a basis for the use of results in international judicial and compensation mechanisms [7]. An important area of interaction is supporting the development and harmonization of national legislation in the field of climate and environmental policy. With the participation of UNEP experts, a draft Law of Ukraine "On the Basic Principles of State Climate Policy" (2024) was prepared, which lays the regulatory framework for achieving climate neutrality and integrates the principles of environmental responsibility into the system of public administration, which contributed to the institutionalization of environmental security as a component of national security and created legal mechanisms for responding to large-scale environmental degradation. In the international legal dimension, UNEP activities form an expert basis for qualifying large-scale environmental destruction as serious violations of international humanitarian and environmental law. The Program's reports and analytical materials are used in discussions on expanding international standards of liability for environmental damage during armed conflicts. Through participation in global environmental forums and coordination with other structures of the UN system, UNEP contributes to the formation of international consensus on the need to strengthen legal mechanisms for environmental protection, including the prospect of normative consolidation of the concept of ecocide. In this context, Ukraine's cooperation with UNEP becomes an instrument for legitimizing environmental damage at the international level and integrating the issue of ecocide into the global security agenda.

The United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA), as the highest governing body of the UN system in the field of environment, plays an important role in the political legitimization of the problem of large-scale environmental damage caused by armed conflicts. Ukraine's participation in the work of UNEA, in particular after its election to the Bureau of the Assembly in 2022, provided the opportunity to systematically raise the issue of war's environmental consequences at the global level. During the sixth session of UNEA [8], the Ukrainian delegation focused on the need for an international response to the destruction of ecosystems in wartime and on the formation of accountability mechanisms for such actions. Discussion of relevant initiatives within the Assembly contributes to the inclusion of the issue of environmental security in the broader international security agenda. UNEA serves as a platform for the formation of international coalitions of states interested in strengthening environmental protection standards and expanding international legal accountability mechanisms. Within the framework of the Assembly sessions, resolutions are adopted that define global environmental priorities, in particular on climate change, biodiversity conservation, pollution prevention and natural resource management. Ukraine's active position contributes to the integration of the issue of military environmental damage into these strategic areas, which gradually forms the political basis for the international recognition of serious environmental destruction as a separate category of threats. Through the mechanisms of UNEA, coordination is carried out with other structures of the UN system and regional organizations, which allows integrating the issue of liability for environmental crimes into a multi-level system of global security.

Ukraine's cooperation with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) acquires a security dimension in conditions of military conflict, when industrial infrastructure becomes the object of increased man-made risks. The destruction or damage to enterprises in the chemical, metallurgical and energy sectors create a threat of large-scale pollution of soil, water resources and the atmosphere, which may have transboundary consequences. In this context, UNIDO's support is aimed at reducing the environmental vulnerability of the industrial sector, implementing safe production standards and increasing the resilience of enterprises to crisis situations. One of the priority areas of interaction is the modernization of industry in accordance with the principles of energy efficiency, decarbonization and environmental safety. UNIDO implements projects in Ukraine to introduce resource-efficient and cleaner production (RECP), which involve optimizing the use of raw materials, reducing emissions and minimizing waste. In 2024, a joint project of the Ministry of Economy of Ukraine and UNIDO, with financial support from Japan, was launched, aimed at transferring modern environmentally friendly technologies and providing grant support to enterprises to implement low-carbon production solutions. Such initiatives reduce man-made risks, raise environmental standards of production, and form the basis for safe post-war industrial reconstruction [9]. An important component of UNIDO's activities is the promotion of the principles of the circular economy as a tool for minimizing environmental threats. The transition to closed production cycles, resource reuse and reduction of

industrial waste reduces the burden on ecosystems and reduces the potential for large-scale environmental incidents. In the security dimension, industrial modernization with the support of UNIDO helps reduce the likelihood of secondary environmental crises that may arise as a result of damage to production facilities during military operations.

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) is a key financial mechanism to support ecological reconstruction and ecosystem restoration in countries that have experienced large-scale environmental degradation. As a multilateral fund established to implement global environmental conventions (including climate, biodiversity, and combating land degradation), the GEF accumulates resources from donor countries and international financial institutions and directs them to projects to reduce environmental risks and increase the resilience of natural systems. For Ukraine, this mechanism is of strategic importance in the context of overcoming the consequences of military environmental damage and building long-term environmental security. GEF financial instruments provide support for programs to restore degraded lands, rehabilitate water resources, preserve biodiversity, and manage waste. Ukraine is a recipient country of GEF projects, which are implemented in cooperation with national authorities and implementing agencies of the UN system, primarily the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Environment Programme. The eighth replenishment of the fund (GEF-8, 2022–2026) provides for financing programs aimed at integrated natural resource management, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and implementing nature-based solutions [10–12]. Such instruments can be adapted to the needs of post-conflict reconstruction, in particular for ecosystem restoration of areas affected by hostilities. Of particular importance is the ability of the GEF to mobilize additional international resources through the co-financing mechanism: each dollar of grant support usually attracts several dollars of matching financing from international development banks, governments and the private sector. In the context of the consequences of ecocide, this creates the opportunity to scale up recovery programs and integrate the environmental component into broader economic reconstruction plans.

The United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) performs a system-forming function in the architecture of global governance, ensuring the coordination of economic, social and environmental policies within the UN system. Through functional commissions, regional economic commissions and specialized agencies, ECOSOC integrates environmental issues into the broader context of international stability, development and security. For Ukraine, this platform is an important tool for promoting the issue of large-scale military environmental damage as a systemic threat with transnational and intersectoral implications. ECOSOC's institutional mechanisms, in particular the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), ensure the integration of environmental challenges into the agenda for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. Military environmental degradation directly affects the achievement of SDGs 6 (clean water and sanitation), 7 (affordable and clean energy), 13 (combating climate change), 14 (conservation of marine resources) and 15 (protection of terrestrial ecosystems). Violation of the ecological balance creates a multiplier effect for socio-economic indicators, complicating the implementation of national development strategies. In this context, the inclusion of the issue of ecocide in the ECOSOC discussions allows us to consider it as an obstacle to achieving global goals, rather than as an isolated environmental problem.

Ukraine's election to ECOSOC for the period 2026–2028 significantly strengthens its position in the global coordination of environmental policy and the integration of environmental security into international narratives of sustainable development. This membership creates additional opportunities for Ukraine to influence the formation of policies that take into account the risks of military environmental damage, and to ensure the promotion of initiatives on responsibility for ecocide at the level of key intergovernmental forums. The coordinating role of ECOSOC, combined with Ukraine's participation in High-Level Councils, intergovernmental consultations, and progress reviews, contributes to the fact that environmental security is increasingly considered in international strategic documents as an element of security and development, rather than a separate technical issue [13].

*Financial and economic dimension of ecological security.* The financial and economic component of responding to military environmental damage determines the practical ability of the state to move from fixing losses to the systematic reconstruction of ecosystems and production infrastructure. This involves combining reparation mechanisms, international donor support, instruments of multilateral development banks and domestic budget programs into a single architecture of "green" reconstruction.

As noted, an important stage is the formation of an evidentiary and economic basis for further compensation procedures. In Ukraine, methods of monetary assessment of damage to land resources, water bodies, atmospheric air and the nature reserve fund are used. In parallel, an approach tested within the framework of Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment (RDNA), which is carried out jointly with the World Bank, the European Commission and the United Nations, is also used. In the third RDNA report (2024), a separate section is devoted to the environmental sector, including calculations of needs for water restoration, waste management and remediation of contaminated areas [14]. In our opinion, the combination of direct assessment (cost of infrastructure restoration) and an ecosystem approach that takes into account the loss of natural services - water purification, climate regulation, biodiversity - is methodologically important. This approach allows us to argue the size of compensation at the international level and forms the basis for long-term planning of environmental reconstruction. Financing of environmental reconstruction is also carried out through grant programs, concessional lending and guarantee instruments. The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the European Investment Bank play an active role, supporting the modernization of water supply, waste management and energy efficiency of municipalities. The environmental component is integrated into large infrastructure projects for energy and transport restoration. In parallel, a special international compensation mechanism is being formed to compensate for the damage caused by aggression, which involves the accumulation of frozen assets of the aggressor state and their potential allocation to reconstruction. In this context, environmental damage is recognized as a component of the total amount of damage subject to compensation.

Restoration is not limited to the reproduction of the pre-war economic model. It is about the structural transformation of the economy on the principles of decarbonization, resource efficiency and circularity. The integration of EU environmental standards, in particular within the framework of the implementation of the EU *acquis* (*acquis communautaire*), determines the long-term vector of reforms. The reconstruction of the energy sector is focused on the development of renewable energy sources, modernization of networks and reduction of carbon intensity of production. This approach reduces the risk of repeated environmental vulnerability, increases the competitiveness of the economy and creates the basis for integration into European markets. Ecological transformation becomes an element of national security, as it reduces dependence on fossil resources and increases the resilience of critical infrastructure.

*Geopolitical and security dimensions: ecocide as a factor of international stability.* Ecocide in the context of armed conflict has consequences that go beyond the ecological plane. Pollution of river basins, destruction of hydraulic structures or damage to industrial facilities create risks that extend beyond national jurisdiction. The Black Sea region is an example of ecosystem interdependence, where environmental incidents have an international resonance. In such a situation, environmental security becomes a subject of regional cooperation and monitoring. The issue of military environmental damage is increasingly raised in discussions on the broader security architecture. Within the United Nations Security Council, the environmental aspects of conflicts are considered in connection with climate risks and humanitarian consequences. Although the Security Council does not have a specific mandate on ecocide, the inclusion of environmental issues on the agenda contributes to its recognition as a factor of international instability.

The traditional understanding of security, focused on military threats, is gradually transforming towards a comprehensive approach that encompasses climate and environmental risks. Ecocide in this context appears as a form of strategic damage capable of undermining the viability of the state and the region. The formation of international coalitions in support of environmental responsibility strengthens the tendency to expand the security agenda. Promoting the issue of ecocide at the international level creates for Ukraine the role of an initiator of normative changes. The combination of diplomatic efforts, participation in international organizations and documentation of environmental crimes creates the basis for a long-term transformation of international law and security policy. In this dimension, ecological reconstruction and international legal responsibility become interrelated elements of the strategy for restoring and strengthening international stability.

## Conclusions

Ukraine is implementing a comprehensive strategy to establish the concept of "ecocide", acting at the national, international legal and diplomatic-expert levels, which provides a synergistic impact on the formation of the international security architecture. At the national level, the state increases the effectiveness of criminal liability for environmental crimes, creates specialized bodies to investigate such crimes, systematically documents environmental damage in conditions of military conflict and integrates environmental security into national legal and defense policies. At the international legal level, Ukraine is strengthening the jurisdictional potential of the International Criminal Court through the ratification of the Rome Statute and active promotion of initiatives to recognize ecocide as a separate categorical crime, forms coalitions of states to support international environmental protection standards and establishes precedents of legal liability for damage to ecosystems in the context of conflicts.

The use of specialized UN structures allows integrating environmental security issues into the reconstruction of post-war territories, modernizing industry, implementing a circular economy, and mobilizing international financial resources for ecosystem reconstruction. In particular, Ukraine's participation in UNDP (EU4Climate) and UNEP programs contributes to damage assessment, development of legislative initiatives, and strengthening the institutional capacity of the state and local communities. UNEA and ECOSOC provide political legitimacy and international coalition support, shaping global environmental priorities and emphasizing the responsibility of states for wartime environmental crimes. The synergy of these three levels allows Ukraine to influence international climate and security initiatives, mobilize resources to restore environmental sustainability, and position the state as a responsible and strategically competent actor in the field of global security. A comprehensive combination of national policy, legal mechanisms, and international initiatives creates the prerequisites for consolidating the concept of ecocide as an important element of modern security architecture and strengthens Ukraine's role in shaping global standards of liability for environmental damage.

## Limitations

The limitations of this study are related to the lack of full access to operational data on environmental damage in active combat zones, which makes it difficult to assess the scale of ecocide in real time. A significant part of international initiatives and discussions does not yet have formalized documents, which limits the quantitative analysis of Ukraine's impact on the global regulatory discourse. In addition, the lack of a unified methodology for assessing environmental damage in the context of military conflicts makes it difficult to compare national and international experience. Another important limitation is the dynamic nature of the political and security situation, which can change the priorities of state strategies and international coalitions. These factors require careful interpretation of the results and make it relevant to continue monitoring, collecting data, and adapting analytical approaches in further research.

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