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

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

Polluting the Soil With Oil CONTAMINATES GROUNDWATER!
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
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

- 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” 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
“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
“Recover”

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