

Armed Conflict and the Environment

Atlantic Daylight Time	Introduction & Keynote	
1:00 – 1:10	Welcome and Opening Remarks (10min)	<p>Evan Hall Co-president, John E. Reid International Law Society, Schulich School of Law, Dalhousie University</p> <p>Richard Devlin Acting Dean, Schulich School of Law, Dalhousie University</p>
1:10 – 1:40	Introductory session on International Humanitarian Law (IHL) (20min + 10min Q&A)	<p>Marie-Laure Tapp International Humanitarian Law Regional Coordinator (Eastern Canada), Canadian Red Cross</p>
1:45 – 2:15	Keynote address (20min + 10min Q&A)	<p>Helen Obregón Gieseken Legal Advisor, International Committee of the Red Cross</p>
2:15 – 2:30	Break	
2:30 – 3:00	Panel (30 min – 10 min each speaker)	<p>Doug Weir Research and Policy Director, the Conflict and Environment Observatory</p>
		<p>Cdr Karen Saweczko Deputy Assistant Judge Advocate General, Office of the Judge Advocate General, Atlantic Region</p>
		<p>Carl Bruch Director of International Programs at the Environmental Law Institute</p>
3:00 – 3:30	Q&A Period	All
3:30 – 3:45	Closing Remarks & Evaluations	<p>Claire Lingley Co-president, John E. Reid International Law Society, Schulich Faculty of Law, Dalhousie University</p> <p>Marie-Laure Tapp International Humanitarian Law Regional Coordinator (Eastern Canada), Canadian Red Cross</p>



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Keynote

Helen Obregón Gieseken has served as Legal Adviser within the ICRC's Legal Division in Geneva since 2014. She focuses, among other issues, on the protection of the environment in situations of armed conflict. Previously, she worked for the ICRC/British Red Cross project on customary international humanitarian law and in the ICRC's Policy and Humanitarian Diplomacy Division. Before joining the ICRC, Helen worked for Oxfam International, TRIAL International and for the international cooperation agency of the Colombian government. Helen holds a Master of Laws (LL.M.) in International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights from the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights and a Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service from Georgetown University (Washington, D.C.).

Panel

Doug Weir has undertaken research and advocacy on the environmental dimensions of armed conflicts since 2005, with a particular focus on conflict pollution and the toxic remnants of war, and the role of civil society in supporting policies that enhance the protection of the environment in relation to armed conflicts. He is a Visiting Research Fellow at King's College London's Department of War Studies' Marjan Centre and has written widely on conflict and the environment. Doug is the co-founder of the Conflict and Environment Observatory, a UK charity that monitors environmental incidents and trends in conflicts, and studies new approaches to data collection. It also monitors developments in law and policy intended to reduce harm, and engages with relevant processes. CEOBS also works with partners to mainstream the environment in humanitarian disarmament field operations. www.ceobs.org @detoxconflict

Cdr Karen Saweczko grew up in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia and attended St Francis-Xavier University in Antigonish, where she earned her Bachelor of Science, Advanced Major in Psychology. On a whim, she decided to apply to law at the University of New Brunswick as opposed to continuing on in Psychology. She was accepted and graduated with her LLB in 1999. From there, Cdr Saweczko moved to St John's Newfoundland to complete her articles and was Called to the Bar of Newfoundland in June 2000.

In September of 2000, Cdr Saweczko joined the Canadian Forces as a Direct Entry Officer in the Office of the Judge Advocate General. She completed Basic Officer Training Course in St Jean, QC, and spent a further eight months in St Jean on French training. Cdr Saweczko was posted to CFB Gagetown in August 2001 and spent three years giving legal advice to the Army units there. During this time, Cdr Saweczko married Maj Andrew Saweczko, a Combat Engineer in the CAF. She also completed her Legal Officer Intermediate training and was promoted to LCdr. In August 2004, Cdr Saweczko component transferred to the Reserve force, remaining with the JAG branch. She was promoted to her current rank and position as DAJAG Atlantic in November 2017.

In her Class A capacity, Cdr Saweczko oversees the provision of legal advice to Reserve units for the Atlantic Region. She has also assisted the Assistant Judge Advocate General Atlantic office with multiple legal issues, instructed countless courses for the JAG branch, and has advised many units on various legal issues. In her Class B capacity, Cdr Saweczko has acted as a Legal Advisor to a Board of Inquiry, worked on the Intermediary Law of Armed Conflict and Military Justice at the Summary Trial Level reviews for the



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Canadian Forces Military Law Center, and provided legal opinions to the Administrative Law Branch. Most recently, she was employed on the Justice Administration and Information Management System project as the Training Coordinator and on Class C service with Op Laser.

Cdr Saweczko also has completed both years one and two at Canadian Forces Command and Staff College. She is the IHL Instructor at the Schulich School of Law, and is also employed by Mount Saint Vincent and St Marys Universities as a part-time instructor. She enjoys working part-time so that she can spend more time with her four children: Rory (15), Adam (13), Eric (10) and Isla (8).

Carl Bruch is the Director of International Programs at the Environmental Law Institute (ELI) and the founding President of the Environmental Peacebuilding Association (EnPAX). An authority on environmental governance, he has helped dozens of countries throughout Africa, the Americas, Asia, and Europe strengthen their environmental laws, institutions, and practices. His work focuses on environmental peacebuilding (especially after conflict), environmental governance, adaptation, and environmental emergencies. He has provided technical and legal assistance, built capacity, and conducted research across the world, including in many conflict-affected countries. He has edited more than ten books and authored more than 80 journal articles, book chapters, and reports. In addition to ELI, he has worked for the UN Environment Programme and the Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide, and is a lecturer at American University's School of International Service. Carl has been quoted in more than 100 print, online, and radio media sources in English, Spanish, Portuguese, German, Italian, Chinese, Japanese, and French. He holds a J.D. summa cum laude from the Northwestern School of Law of Lewis & Clark college, a M.A. in physics from the University of Texas, and a B.S. in physics (with additional majors in mathematics and anthropology from Michigan State University).



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