

**Training Program:
Specific Features of War Crimes Against the Environment**

May 29th 2026



The Rome Statute & The Kakhovka Dam: Prospects of International Criminal Law



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Climate Change as the major risk for planetary security.

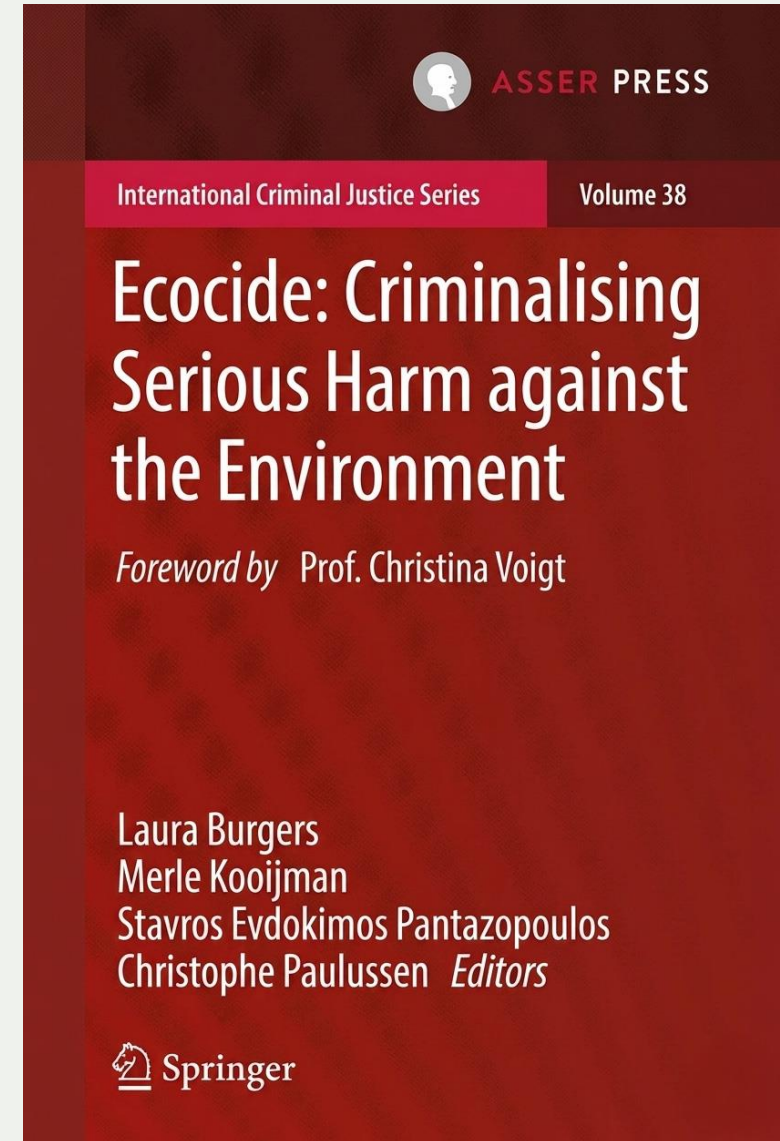
- May 2026 has been the hottest May ever recorded.
- Climate change is for example one of the compounding factors for the Ebola outbreak in Congo and Uganda.
- Cumulative greenhouse emissions resulting from the Russian aggression and the inevitable Ukraine defence, from 2022 to early 2026 is 236,800,000 tonnes⁽¹⁾ of CO₂ equivalent.
- The costs of the damage caused is estimated to be \$57,000,000,000.



(1) Mission of the Ukraine to the EU

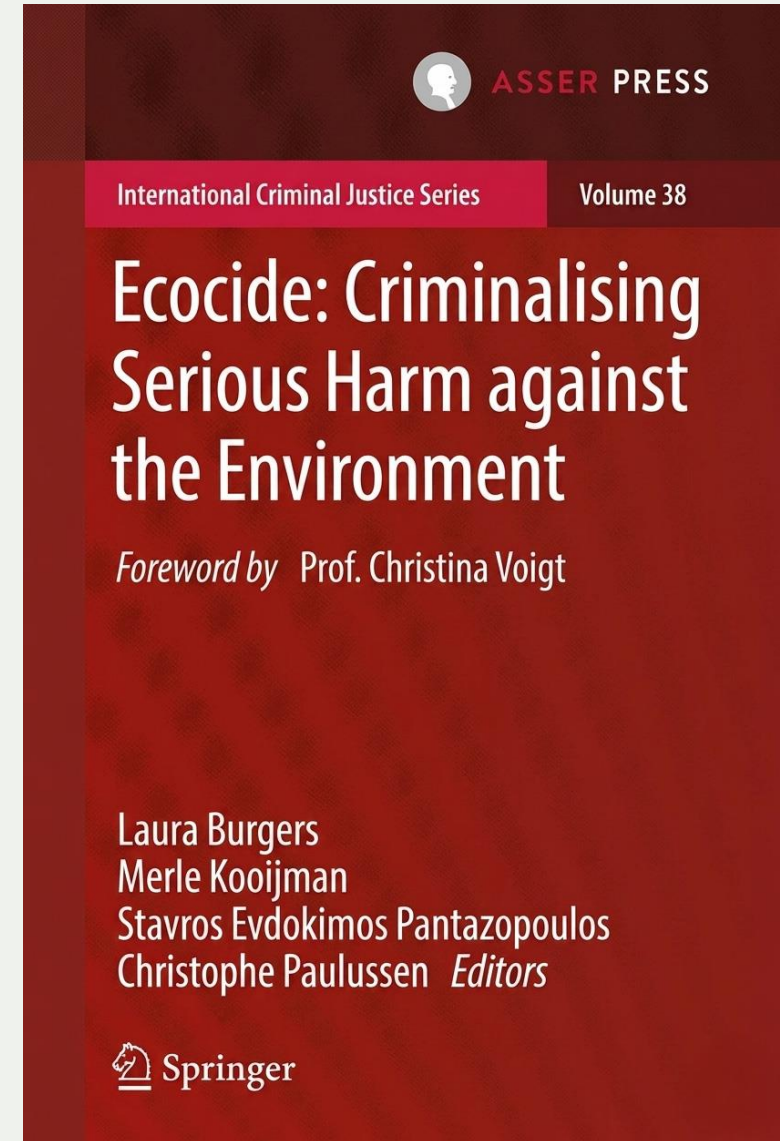
Climate Change is also Considered to be a form of Ecocide

- As outlined in 'Ecocide: Criminalising Serious Harm against the Environment.'



Nova Kakhovka: More Questions Than Answers:

- The book also has a chapter: Lawfare Against Ecocide; written by Borys Babin and Olesksii Plotnikov. Ending with the following paragraph:
- “Wondering why the Nova Kakhovka dam blast has not yet become a showcase of ecocide trial, and why it has not become the first case before the ICC on conflict related environmental crimes.”
- More on this observation later...



Destruction of the Kakhovka HPP: Preliminary Conclusions And Possible Consequences

- An excellent overview of the legal aspects of the Kakhovka dam blast was given by the [EPL in their June 6th 2023 report.](#)
- One of the conclusions of the report said: “We call on the international community to provide assistance to Ukraine in gathering evidence, assessing all the consequences of such a crime on the environment.”



Submerged:

Study of the Destruction of the Kakhovka Dam and Its Impacts on Ecosystems, Agrarians, Other Civilians, and International Justice

June 6 2024

- An in-depth report on the damage caused and individuals responsible for the Kakhovka dam blast.
- More analysis on this report follows.



SUBMERGED:

Study of the Destruction of the Kakhovka Dam and Its Impacts on Ecosystems, Agrarians, Other Civilians, and International Justice

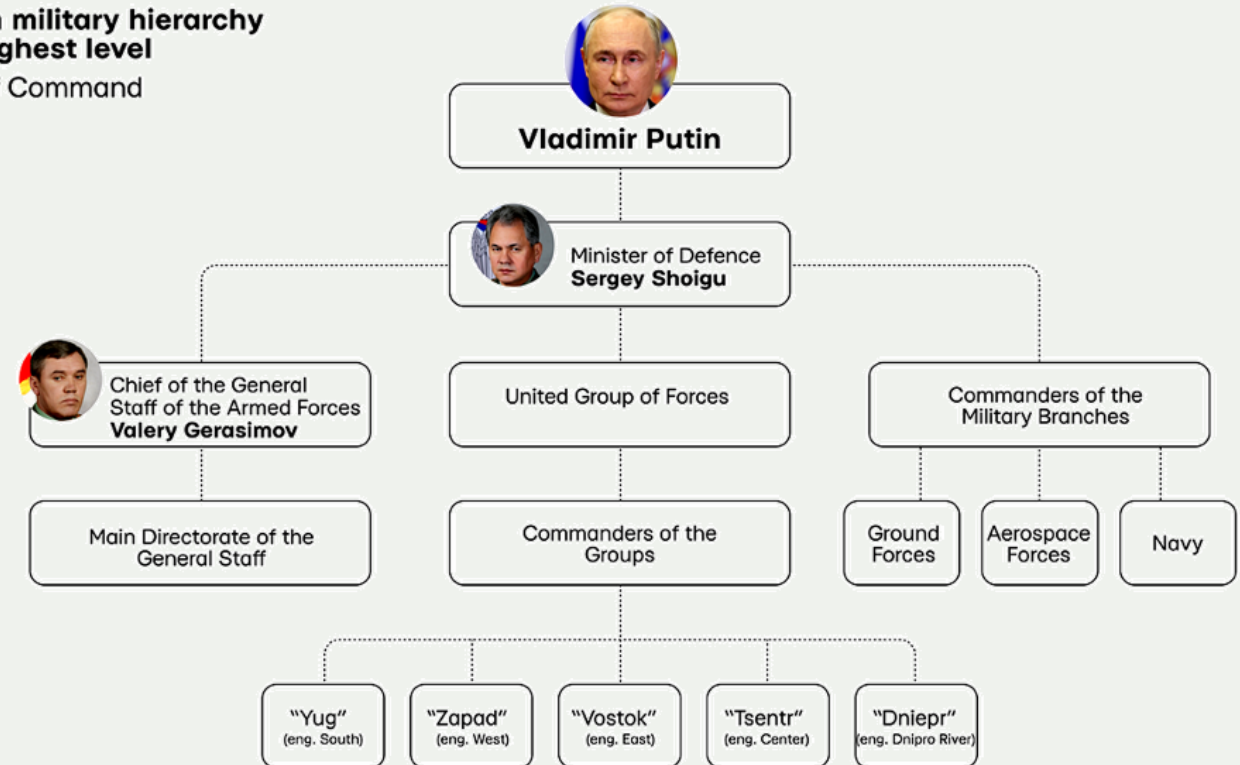
Nova Kakhovka Dam and Article 8(2)b(iv) of the Rome Statute

- “Prohibits intentionally launching an attack in the knowledge that such attack will cause incidental loss of life or injury to civilians or damage to civilian objects;
- Or widespread, long term and severe damage to the non-human environment;
- Which would be clearly excessive in relation to the concrete and direct overall military advantage anticipated.”

“Excessive in relation to the concrete and direct overall military advantage anticipated.”

- The ICC prosecutes and sanctions individuals guilty of the crimes contained in the Rome Statute.
- Who would those be in the case of the Kakhovka Dam blast?
- There is consensus that the blast was perpetrated by the Russian military.
- Who would be the responsible individuals?
- In order to prosecute those responsible, the impact of the crime must be assessed.

Russian military hierarchy of its highest level
Chain of Command



Source visual: SubMerged report: Study of the Destruction of the Kakhovka Dam and Its Impacts on Ecosystems, Agrarians, Other Civilians, and International Justice p. 57.

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Pre-flooding Geosat image of Oleshky (location 5), resolution 0.75 m



Flooding of Oleshky (location 5), Geosat image from June 7, 2023, resolution 0.75 m

Source visual: SubMerged report: Study of the Destruction of the Kakhovka Dam and Its Impacts on Ecosystems, Agrarians, Other Civilians, and International Justice p. 74-80.

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Satellite image of the Kakhovka HPP taken on June 6. Source: @Planet via X



1 - Dead fish are seen on the drained bottom of the Nova Kakhovka Reservoir after the Dam breached in the village of Marianske in Dnipropetrovsk Oblast, Ukraine, June 7. REUTERS/Sergiy Chalji ⁴⁸⁰



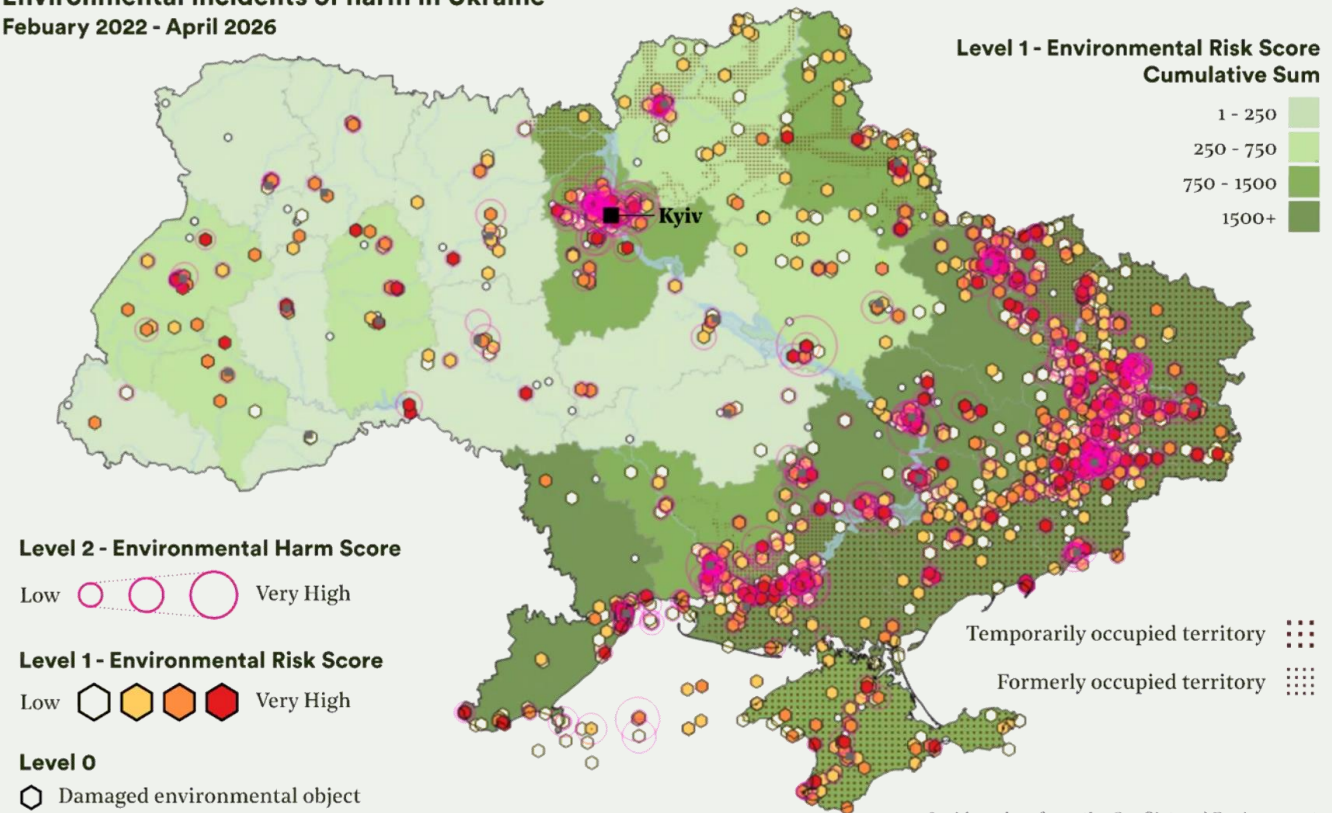
2 - Image of dead fish after drainage of the Kakhovka Reservoir published by the Zaporizhzhia Fisheries Patrol on June 15, 2023, near the village of Lysohirka, near Zaporizhzhia ⁴⁸¹

Source visual: SubMerged report: Study of the Destruction of the Kakhovka Dam and Its Impacts on Ecosystems, Agrarians, Other Civilians, and International Justice p. 74-80.

WISEN: The Wartime Incidents to Environment Database

- To execute Article 8(2)b(iv) properly, a systematic overview of the environmental damage as mentioned in 8(2)b(iv) must be established.
- To that end, a major initiative to assemble, analyse and interpret environmental impact of conflict with a comprehensive focus on Ukraine has been launched by CEOBS - [The Wartime Incidents to Environment Database](#)

Environmental incidents of harm in Ukraine
February 2022 - April 2026

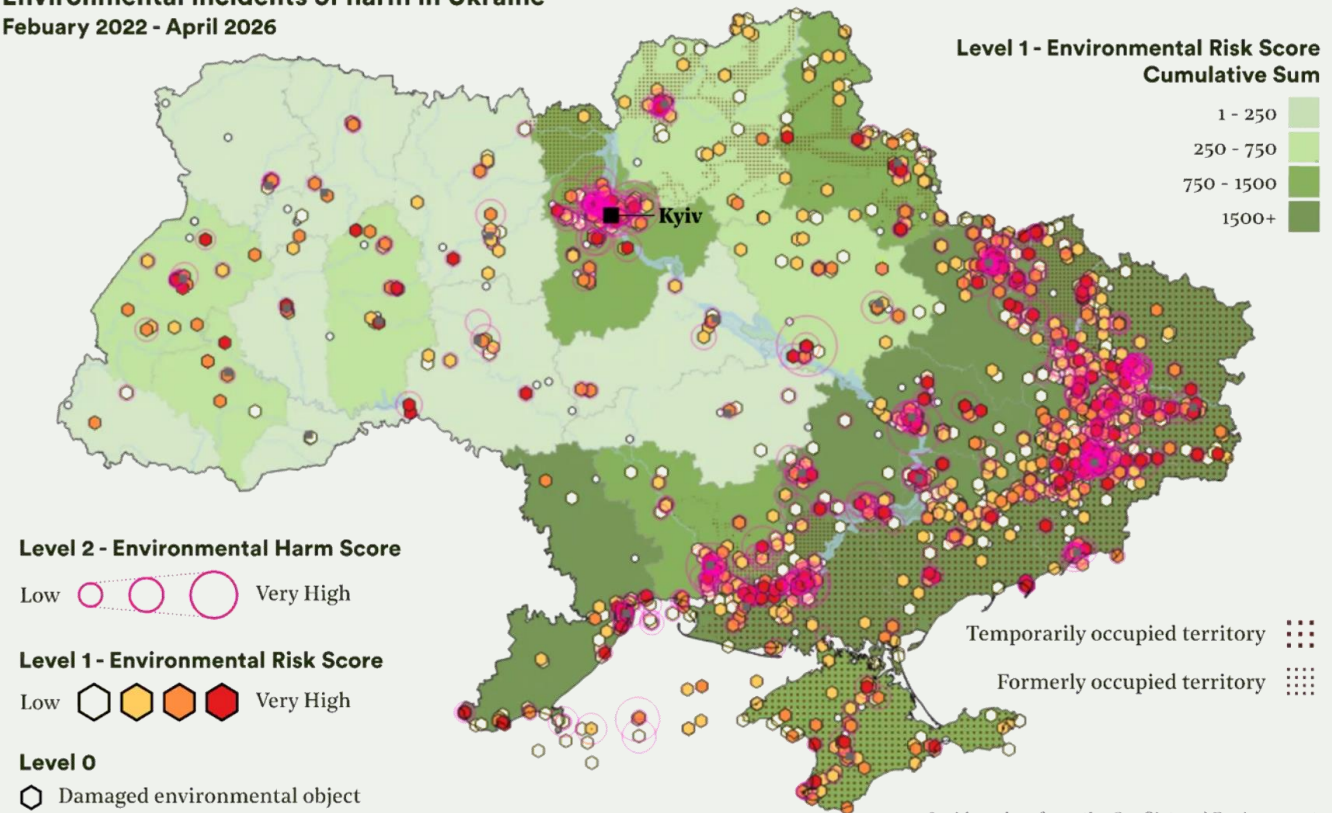


Incident data from the Conflict and Environment Observatory. Front-line data from DeepState.ua.

WISEN: The Wartime Incidents to Environment Database

- Combining satellite imagery, field-based testimony, and footage; a theoretical environmental harm score can be calculated.
- High scoring incidents are progressed to Level 2, where a detailed dossier of evidence is compiled.
- Professor Kevin Jon Heller stressed on the launch of this program on the 21st May 2026. Programs like WISEN are urgently needed to strengthen the capacity of the ICC to implement the Rome Statute in situations like the Kakhovka Dam blast.

Environmental incidents of harm in Ukraine
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Incident data from the Conflict and Environment Observatory. Front-line data from DeepState.ua.

Conclusion

- While the ICC with the Rome Statute, including Article 8(2)b(iv), is a vital element of the international legal order, the court must be significantly strengthened and its membership expanded to address future acts of ecocide and crimes against the environment.