



CLIMATE COUNSEL

**Press Release:**

**NEW CLIMATE COUNSEL REPORT:**

**GUIDE TO IDENTIFYING AND FRAMING ENVIRONMENTAL WAR CRIMES IN  
UKRAINE**

**28 March 2023**

Over the last 8 months, Climate Counsel has been working closely with the Office of the Prosecutor-General of Ukraine to prepare cases involving environmental war crimes. As part of this assistance, Climate Counsel has developed a first-of-its-kind practical Guide to help prosecutors identify, frame, investigate, and prioritize environmental war crimes cases.

The invasion of Ukraine by Russian forces not only poses a severe threat to civilian lives, but also to Ukraine's natural environment. Russians have directly targeted environmentally sensitive sites; polluting rivers, poisoning soils, and risking nuclear disaster. The damage will leave a legacy of environmental degradation, prolonging the suffering inflicted by this catastrophic war of aggression. President Zelensky has raised this concern and Prosecutor-General Kostin is committed to prosecuting environmental war crimes.

Maksym Popov, Special Advisor on environmental crimes to the Ukrainian Prosecutor-General says:

*“The Prosecutor General is determined to hold perpetrators to account for the crimes against the environment committed by invading Russian forces. Climate Counsel’s guide is a crucial step in this process, equipping Ukraine’s prosecutors with the tools they need to pursue justice.”*

While severe environmental crimes in wartime are not new, they have been largely ignored by prosecutors at both national and international courts. This must change. According to Richard J Rogers, Climate Counsel’s Executive Director:

*“Climate Counsel’s Guide provides a succinct, self-contained, and practical resource for all prosecutors to pursue accountability for environmental war crimes, which is both vital and long-overdue.”*

The natural environment must not remain a silent victim of war.

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**Download the Guide:** <https://tinyurl.com/CCEnviowarcrimesguide>

**Website:** [www.climatecounsel.org/warcrimes](http://www.climatecounsel.org/warcrimes)

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