

Risk factors around natural resources

Whether increased competition over natural resources escalates into conflict depends on a number of risk factors:

» High dependence

Groups that are highly dependent on specific supplies of natural resources and lack alternatives may be more likely to pursue coping strategies that could spur conflict.

» A history of conflict & fragility

Civil war, ethnic rivalries, and interstate conflict often establish a culture of violence, weaken cooperative mechanisms, and make arms easily available.



» Inequality & marginalization

Imbalances in power and rights can lead to differences in access to resources, which can entrench poverty and inequality. Inequality, or the perception of it, can spur conflict between 'haves' and the 'have-nots'. Marginalized groups are often excluded from formal methods of resolving resource conflicts.