

War adversely affects several soil quality indicators and functions. War and conflicts adversely affect well-being of people and the quality and functions (i.e., ecosystem services) of soil. War-related vehicular traffic can aggravate soil compaction and sealing, increase excavation of trenches or tunnels, and cause cratering by bombs. There are also changes in soil chemical properties such as contamination by oil, heavy metals, and herbicides. War causes loss of above and below-ground biodiversity and changes in microbial population by deliberate introduction of micro-organisms which are harmful to human and animals. Complete recovery of war-ravaged soil and landscape may take decades or even centuries. Contaminated soil may have to be removed physically and replaced by uncontaminated soil from elsewhere.

Land and people ravaged by war require healing and rehabilitation. Adverse effects on above ground and below ground biodiversity impacts critical ecosystem services essential to human well-being and nature conservancy and can also lead to numerous disservices. Notable among disservices are pollution of water, contamination of air of air, denudation and dissection of the landscape and extinction of species.

Human welfare is restored only when the war-ravaged land is healed, and its ecosystem services restored. . The abrupt disruption between the people and the land must be reestablished. War, conflicts, and civil disruptions are harmful to the planet and all of its inhabitantsd, including humans.



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Traffic of heavy machinery destroys the land and creates ecosystem disservices
(Source: bne IntelliNews)

