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978-1-107-09383-6 - International Law and Governance of Natural Resources in Conflict and Post-conflict Situations

Daniëlla Dam-de Jong

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INTERNATIONAL LAW AND  
GOVERNANCE OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
IN CONFLICT AND POST-CONFLICT  
SITUATIONS

Natural resource wealth is conducive to a country's development. Nevertheless, the last few decades have shown a harsher reality, where natural resources have also triggered, financed or fuelled a number of internal armed conflicts. Examples include the armed conflicts in Cambodia, Sierra Leone, Liberia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which have been financed by the exploitation of a variety of valuable natural resources, including diamonds, gold, timber, oil and cocoa. The aim of this book is to assess the contribution of international law in ensuring that natural resources are used to promote development and to achieve sustainable peace instead of financing armed conflict. For this purpose, the author discusses the international legal framework for the governance of natural resources in States in general, in situations of armed conflict and as part of conflict resolution and post-conflict peacebuilding efforts.

DANIËLLA DAM-DE JONG is an assistant professor at the Department of Public International Law and the Grotius Centre for International Legal Studies at Leiden University, the Netherlands. Her research interests include international humanitarian law, international human rights law, international environmental law and the law on the use of force.

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To my father, Pieter-Jan de Jong,  
and my grandmother, Fokje Bakker-Geertsma,  
in loving memory

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*'Natural resources are neither a curse nor a blessing; they are simply a source of opportunity. They can be used for tremendous good or they can be wasted.'*

(Former Secretary-General Kofi Annan, addressing the UN Security Council, 19 June 2013)

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