ICE Coding Handbook

March, 2017

This handbook is for coding ICE cases based on 10 separate indicators, half generally about environment aspects and half about the conflict.

Category Indicator and Attributes

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| *Indicator* | *Attributes* |
| 1. Conflict Trigger | Water, Border, Energy, Pollution, Sovereignty, Forest, Metal-mineral, Climate-weather, Animal-plant, and Military |
| 2. Location of Conflict | Continent, Region, Country |
| 3. Dates of Conflict | Start Date, End Date |
| 4. Type of Conflict | International, Civil |
| 5. Intensity of Conflict | Fatalities categorized by six category logarithmic scale |
| 6. Environment and Conflict Link | Water, Territory, Habitat Loss, Radiation, Species Loss, Resources, Deforestation, Pollution, Climate Change |
| 7. Type of Habitat | Cool, Dry, Ocean, Temperate, Tropical |
| 8. Type of Environmental Conflict | Territory, Extra-territory, Resource, Sink, |
| 9. Scope of the Conflict and Environment Issue | Global, Multilateral, Regional, Bilateral, State, and Sub-State |
| 10. Status and Outcome of Case | Complete, Ongoing |

This coding handbook only covers ten categories of ICE, including some sub-categories.

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| 1. Conflict Trigger | Water, Border, Energy, Pollution, Sovereignty, Forest, Metal-mineral, Climate-weather, Animal-plant, and Military |

Some data coding is on an interval basis. This may require require the coder to find a range of quantitative estimates, such as fatalities, and from that provide an average or most reliable figure. This may be in regard to number of casualties (deaths) or when a conflict started and began. In other cases, there are some that use ordinal data. These data would include the ranking of the scope of the case from the most local to the most global.

However, most indicator requirements use nominal data. In these instances, the coder will be provided with a delimited list of possible choices. Selection of environment indicators especially poses a problem because conflict are complex situations. There may differing ways that environment might related to a single conflict and this focus may even shift during the course of the conflict. For the coder, the choice boils down to choosing the one with the most importance to the case and the category at that point in time.

1. Conflict Trigger

Choose one type that best captures the essence of the case in terms of environmental factors in conflict. This indicator elucidates the type of role of environment played in the inciting of a conflict.

a. Water Changes: Sudden changes in fresh water availability. This includes the building of dams or irrigation canals that divert rivers, weather events that suddenly divert waters, disputes over the rights on rivers that form national boundaries, or other similar actions.

b. Border-movements: Aggressive moves to gain control of disputed territories between nations.

c. Energy Control: Conflict over control or ownership of energy resources that could include many sources, including coal, gas, wood, oil, uranium, solar, and others.

d. Pollution Releases: Pollution that is a major threat to the human or environmental health.  Dumping of nuclear materials in ocean areas could be one example.

e. Sovereignty Claims: New or long-standing sovereignty claims that are suddenly elevated could be perceived of as a threat to another countries territorial integrity.  These claims could be for areas with strategic amterials or other strategic purposes.

f. Rapid Forest Loss: Rapid decline in forest resources that is a threat to communities that rely on them.  Large scale logging to establish soy or cattle farms in Brazil.

g. Metal-mineral security:  Metals or minerals that are highly prized.  Coltan in Congo, for example.

h. Climate-weather impacts:  Climate and weather events that are severe or drastic in their impact.  These events set into motion large-scale humanitarian disasters of migration, as in cyclones that occasionally strike South Asia.

i. Animal-plant resources:  Animals or plants that carry outsized value for periodic reasons.  This could include beaver fur in the 1700s or rhino horn today.

j. Military Movements:  Sudden military moves, or moves that build up military infrastructure, in a disputed area.  Creating artificial islands out of shoals would be one example.

2. Location of Conflict  
  
Applies to where the actual conflict is taking place. The indicator drills down from the global to the state level. Locations may be extra-terrestrial.

COW focuses on cases that occurred within the borders of a recognized state. This focus however will open up and include unclaimed or at least un-recognized places. This is the variable “WhereFought” from COW.

a.  Continent:  Major land and sea masses on the planet.  Middle-east Africa and Asia are broken out as a separate group from Europe, Asia and Australia, North and South America, Africa, and Antarctica.  Each major ocean is also included: Arctic, Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian.

b.  Region:  Only land areas broken out, usually be simple north, south, east, or west designations.

c.  Country: Country

3. Dates of Conflict

Conflict dates reflect when actions are taken to begin or end a conflict. Since some of the cases are speculative in nature, like a crisis of some sort, there may be no casualties, at least yet. Some sources such as Correlations of War and PRIO/ UPCD are based on minimum casualties of 25 per year directly due to battle, including civilians. It is hard to focus more narrowly than one an annual basis in judging thresholds given the great uncertainty with estimates of death, particularly on the civilian side.

a.  Start Date:  Year in which conflict began.

b.  End Date:  Year in which conflict ended, or when casualties dipped below the minimum threshold for inclusion.

4. Type of Conflict

Choose one or the other as the primary aspect of the cases in terms of the entirety of the environmental conflict problem and the factors that are within and outside of state boundaries. COW separates civil wars between local issues and control of the government. This distinction could be added later on. Singer and Small also make the point that conflicts may transform over time from one category to another.

a.  International: Is the primary focus of the conflict between two or more states?

b.  Civil: Is the primary focus of the conflict within a state?

5. Intensity of Conflict

This follows the tradition of LF Richardson rather than COW where no minimal level is established for inclusion, but the cases can be sorted on several differing criteria. COW uses 1,00 deaths yearly for intra-state conflicts but on 100 for civil conflicts. This figure includes all deaths directly attributable to the war. Singer and Small admit the it is hard to quantify casualties especially in civil wars since the combatants might not wear uniforms.

 Fatalities categorized by logarithmic scale with six categories (0-10, 11-100. 101-1,000, 1,001-10,000, 10,001-100,000, and 100,000 and above.

6. Environment and Conflict Structural Link

Indicate the the long-standing environmental issue or role in the conflict case. These categories are related to triggers as sudden events of conflict (Category #1) or events that might cross some threshold.

a. Water: Long-standing or incrementally growing problem of fresh water shares from river that cross through several nations or form their borders.

b. Territory: Historical claims to territory that might be called grievances or revanchist sentiments.

c. Habitat Loss: Gradual transition of natural places into highly-managed, urbanized, or cultivated environments.

d. Radiation: This includes radiation releases that are conflict related. This might include the left-over affects of the atomic and hydrogen bomb tests, mishaps with nuclear material in international water, intentional dumping of nuclear materials into ocean areas.

e. Species Loss: This indicator is clearly less important now compared to times in pre-history. Competition over the pelts of beaver, otter, mink and other mammals was a driving factor behind British and French competition over western Canada and the United States. Today, these types of conflicts are largely limited to sea creatures, especially fish. Cod, for example, has been a source of conflicts for a long time.

f. Resources: This group includes mostly (1) minerals and metals and (2) energy types. However, there are exceptions. Bird guano on islands in the Pacific off of South America were once vied over for use as a fertilizer.

g. Deforestation: Deforestation can be a cause of conflict in that people reliant on woodland resources have lost their livelihood. It can also be part of a conflict strategy on the part of one side, say with the use of herbicides.

h. Pollution: These cases usually are a consequence of war. Saddam Hussein polluted the Persian Gulf with oil in 1991 and nuclear testing in the Pacific has rendered some people’s homes uninhabitable. It is possible that a country would regard some type of particularly toxic emission so bad that military force was required to end it.

i. Climate Change: For the most part, this category refers to global warming and sea level rise. However, it is hard to not see impacts in nearly all of the other coding categories here. It will lead to deforestation, for example.

7. Type of Habitat

This choice generally follows basic bio-climatic systems from Koeppin and others. The hard part is for countries that involve a variety of habitats (the United States for example, which include all of the choices noted below). To the extent possible choose the habitat particular to that locale where the conflicts occurs. Further work would break countries into identifiable bio-climatic areas).

a. Cool: Areas with moderate precipitation. Cold climate.

b. Dry: Areas characterized by low precipitation. May be hot or cold climates.

c. Ocean: Areas in oceans or seas.

d. Temperate: Areas with moderate precipitation. Hot and cold climate periods.

e. Tropical: Areas characterized by high precipitation. Always hot.

8. Type of Environmental Conflict

a. Territory: Conflict over ownership of a physical area.

b. Extra-territory: Conflict over economic rights, navigation, or potential claims in areas not under the control of a state.

c. Resource: Conflict in this category refers to access to a territorial or extra-territorial resource but necessarily ownership.

d. Sink: The type includes pollution that could possibly be a cause or a consequence of conflict.

9. Scope of the Conflict and Environment Issue

a. Global: This type includes threat to most of the world’s people, for example climate change.

b. Multilateral: The dimension covers a variety of countries from differing regions of the world.

c. Regional: This scope is based on the continental definitions and regional breakouts. (See Handbook for ICE coding.)

d. Bilateral: Conflicts or environmental issues that involve only two nations.

e. State: Conflicts or environmental issues that involve a whole nation.

f. Sub-State: Conflicts or environmental issues that involve units within nations nations.

10. Status and Outcome of Case

a. Complete: Cases that are over or settled fall into this category. Many of these are historic cases.

b. Ongoing: Cases that are continuing or have a pattern of flaring up and subsiding over a period of time.