

FEATURED PROJECT : GROUND | WORK



Ground|Work is an online simulation in which users grapple with maintaining the fragile peace in a fictional, post-conflict country called Nimpala. The simulation was developed by CCNMTL and Marc Levy, deputy director

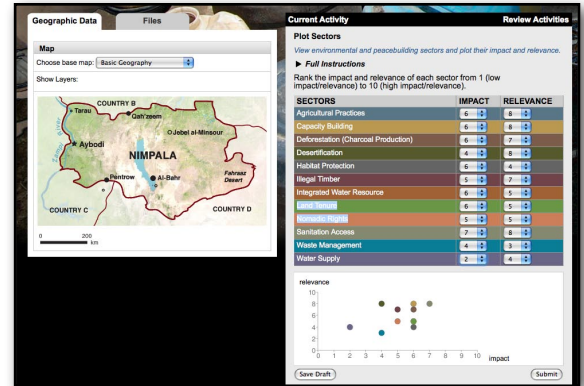
of the Center for International Earth Science and Information Network, and is used in Levy's course, "Environment, Conflict, and Resolution Strategy."

Over the course of seven weeks students use their knowledge of previous conflicts and conflict resolution strategies to complete both individual and team activities presented in the Ground|Work simulation. These activities include drafting a conflict assessment, funding interventions, preventing or responding to humanitarian crises, and working with donors. When the simulation concludes, teams will find that Nimpala is in one of three states/conditions: peace, humanitarian crisis, or resurgence of conflict.

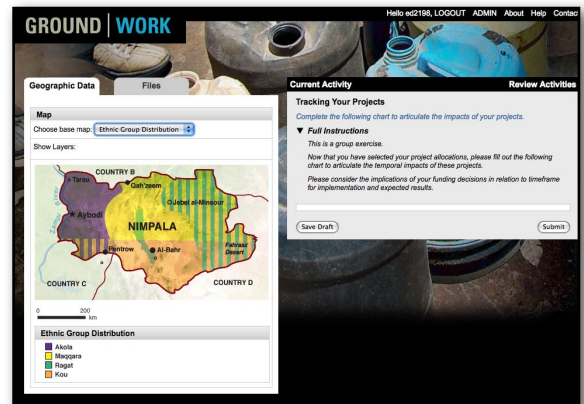
Ground|Work aims to demonstrate how scholarship on environment and conflict translates to practical decision-making in the field or in policy arenas. The simulation presents complex questions that address three conceptual pillars natural resources, environmental change, and peace-building—and asks students to grapple with scenarios in which they do not have all the facts, which is often the case in the real world. Furthermore, the simulation helps students understand that the objectives of peace-building and natural resources are much more complex when facing a host of conflicting groups.

Throughout the simulation, students are shown that there is no right or wrong strategy in dealing with such complex scenarios. Instead, the simulation underscores the nuanced decision-making process required to address multiple dilemmas and allows students to apply potential management strategies in an explorative, educational setting. Upon completion of the Ground|Work simulation, students should walk away with the abilities to challenge assumptions about the links between conflict and the environment, create new approaches to the linkages, and identify effective management strategies and causes and failures.

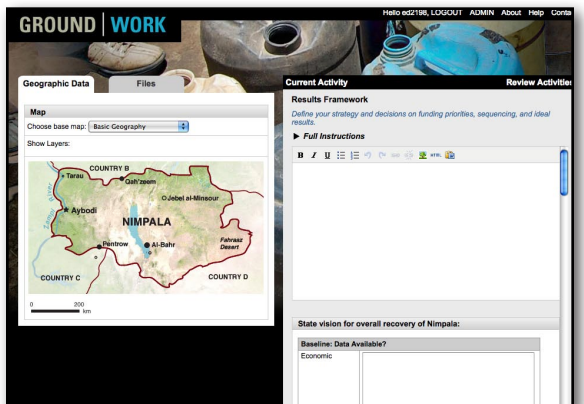
Ground|Work also serves as a vehicle for improving research on environment and conflict, by soliciting feedback from students, professors, and select experts. This interaction will provide a means for testing new approaches and refining analytical frameworks in a way that is useful for future policy makers, aid workers, and conflict resolution practitioners.



Students rank the impact and relevance of environmental and peace-building sectors. The resulting chart serves as a visual representation of a student group's priorities and helps guide decisions regarding future interventions.



Digital maps show the ethnic group distribution and basic geography of the fictional, post-conflict country, Nimpala.



Students define their strategy and decisions on funding priorities, sequencing, and ideal results, and state vision for overall recovery of Nimpala in this activity.