

UNEP field report	Summary of study
<p><i>UNEP Depleted Uranium in Bosnia and Herzegovina Post-Conflict Environmental Assessment. Revised Edition: May 2003</i></p>	<p>Depleted Uranium (DU) ammunition was used in 1994-95 during the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina. This third DU field study from the Balkans, following UNEP's earlier DU studies in Kosovo (2001) and Serbia and Montenegro (2002), increases the scientific knowledge of the behaviour of DU in the environment.</p> <p>The mission investigated 14 sites. DU could easily be found at three of these sites more than seven years after the conflict and was confirmed by the physical presence of penetrators and jackets, as well as by soil, bio-indicator, water and air samples.</p> <p>For the first time in UNEP's DU studies in the Balkans, DU was found in drinking water samples, albeit at extremely low levels. DU was also measured in air samples, both outside as well as inside certain buildings currently in use. <b>The report recommends precautionary steps in the form of decontamination and clean-up.</b></p> <p>Given the <b>remaining scientific uncertainties on the long-term behaviour of DU in the natural environment</b>, UNEP recommends further studies to be done in other regions where DU ammunition has been used.</p>
<p><i>UNEP Depleted Uranium in Kosovo Post-Conflict Environmental Assessment</i></p>	<p>The mission visited 11 sites, taking hundreds of measurements and collecting more than 300 samples for laboratory analysis. This report presents UNEP's findings and conclusions on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the presence and extent of DU contamination at the study sites;</li> <li>• corresponding risks to the environment;</li> <li>• possible mitigation actions.</li> </ul> <p><b>UNEP urges a precautionary approach and recommends a series of measures to minimise risks to the environment and people of Kosovo and the wider Balkans region, both now and in the future.</b></p>

<p><i>UNEP: Depleted Uranium in Serbia/Montenegro Post-Conflict Environmental Assessment</i></p>	<p>The <b>potential environmental risks</b> posed by Depleted Uranium (DU) weapons have been a widely debated issue.</p> <p>In autumn 2001, as a follow-up to its earlier work on DU in Kosovo, UNEP organized a scientific field mission to investigate the possible environmental consequences from DU used in Serbia and Montenegro during the military conflict of 1999.</p> <p>The mission investigated five targeted sites in Serbia, one in Montenegro and a targeted military vehicle. Field measurements were performed at each site, and 161 samples were collected for laboratory analyses.</p> <p>While the results of this study are consistent with previous findings in Kosovo, important new discoveries were made concerning penetrator corrosion, airborne DU particles, and risks for future groundwater contamination. Also, important lessons were learned from the decontamination measures conducted by Yugoslavian, Serbian and Montenegrin authorities.</p> <p><b>Given the remaining scientific uncertainties and adherence to the precautionary principle, UNEP recommends a series of measures to minimize risks and identifies important future search needs.</b></p>
<p><i>Technical Report on United Nations Environment Programme Geneva, August 2007 Capacity-building for the Assessment of Depleted Uranium in Iraq.</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Iraqi Ministry of Environment should <b>continue to receive support from the international community</b> to maintain staff expertise and morale;</li> <li>2. All tanks, armoured personnel carriers, and other military equipment hit by DU ammunition should be <b>identified and isolated to prevent access</b> by the general population;</li> <li>3. All <b>metal scrap yards</b> that have received scrap related to the conflict(s) should be assessed for the potential presence of DU;</li> <li>4. Health and safety precautions in scrap yards and scrap processing plants should be improved to minimize long-term health impacts to people working there. <b>With respect to human health, the radio toxicity or radiological effects of DU should be considered secondary to its chemical toxicity;</b></li> <li>5. <b>Education and awareness-raising efforts on DU-related issues should be scaled up throughout the country</b> to avoid that the population being accidentally exposed to DU residues and DU-impacted scraps; and</li> <li>6. The issue of the <b>storage and disposal</b> of DU contaminated scrap metal should be taken into account as part of national efforts to decommission and store radioactive sources.</li> </ol>