Environmental damage in the conflict in Ukraine

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Mining, chemical, metallurgical and engineering industries are located in the region.

Deposits of coal, rock salt, gypsum, cement raw materials, fluxes and dolomite, granite, fire-resistant and refractory clays.

Intensive field development, large concentration of industrial, agricultural and transport infrastructure create the heaviest in Europe load on the environment.

### Donetsk & Lugansk oblasts description

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Donetsk &amp; Lugansk oblast</th>
<th>Ukraine</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Industrial emissions, %</td>
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<td>(4,3 mln.t total)</td>
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<td>Coke production, %</td>
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<td>(17 mln.t total)</td>
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<td>Pig iron production, %</td>
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<td>(29 mln.t total)</td>
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<td>Coal of hard production, %</td>
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<td>(64 mln.t total)</td>
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Damage to Donetsk & Lugansk oblasts

Armed conflict background
- Territory under separatist control
- Territory formerly under separatist control
- Areas of concentrated fighting in 2014/15
- National borders
- Oblast (provincial) borders

Vegetation and water systems
- Forests
- Rivers and lakes
- Water supply canals

Damage to industry with likely environmental consequences
- Reported disruption of specific industrial operations at coal mines etc. (interruption of gas or energy supply, local damage to infrastructure) with potential environmental
- Widespread impact on soil and agricultural land, water and electricity supply
Damage to Donetsk & Lugansk oblasts environment

**Armed conflict background**
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**Vegetation and water systems**
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**Direct impact on the environment and water systems**
- Damage to natural protected areas
- Disruption of water-supply communications
- Major forest fires
What has changed in the environmental situation since the last year?

- Increased risk to hazardous facilities (dams, tailings)
- Forests cut down for fuel and fortification
- Groundwater polluted with mining effluents
- Increase in forest fires
- Migration of animals from combat areas
- Health situation deteriorated
What new problems emerged?

- Uncontrolled dismantling of hazardous enterprises
- Pollution of surface water with sewage
- Methane in buildings from flooded mines
- Destruction of nature reserves
- Irregular removal of municipal waste
- Growing rodent populations
What problems got solved by themselves?

- Air quality has improved

What has been done to solve the problems?

- Electricity supply partially re-established
- Water supply partially re-established
- Bridges and roads partially repaired
What was not done but should have been?

- Restore environmental monitoring
- Define state environmental policy for the conflict area
- Assess full environmental impact of the fighting
- Define maintenance and reconstruction priorities
- Assess economic and social damage
- Finance the work

...and start a dialogue