

Environmental Performance Review Programme

An environmental performance review (EPR) is an external assessment of the progress a country has made in reconciling its environmental and economic targets and in meeting its international environmental commitments.

Since 1991 the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development has been implementing the EPR Programme for its members. Pursuant to a decision by Ministers of Environment at their Second Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (Lucerne, Switzerland, 1993), the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) has been carrying out EPRs in interested countries.

The **main objectives** of the EPR Programme are:

- To assist countries to improve their management of the environment and associated environmental performance by making concrete recommendations for better policy design and implementation;
- To promote the exchange of information among countries about policies and experiences;
- To help integrating environmental policies into sector-specific economic policies, such as agricultural, energy, transport and health policies;
- To promote greater accountability to the public;
- To strengthen cooperation with the international community;
- To contribute to the achievement and monitoring of the relevant SDGs.

As a voluntary exercise, EPR is undertaken at the request of the country under review. The assessment team, made up of international experts, meets with national experts and representatives of civil society and international community in the country under review to discuss issues covered by the review.

EPR contains recommendations for further improvement, taking into consideration the country's progress since the previous review. ECE Expert Group on EPRs expert reviews the EPR. Subsequently, the ECE Committee on Environmental Policy peer reviews the EPR recommendations and adopts them.

First-cycle EPRs established baseline conditions regarding trends, policy commitments, institutional arrangements, and routine capabilities for carrying out national evaluations.

Since 1996, the following countries of the ECE region carried out a First EPR: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Estonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Slovenia, Tajikistan, North Macedonia, Turkmenistan (in 2012 according to third-cycle EPRs methodology), Ukraine, Uzbekistan and Yugoslavia.

Second-cycle EPRs assessed progress and helped to stimulate greater accountability. Emphasis was placed on implementation and financing of environment policy, the integration of environmental concerns into economic sectors and the promotion of sustainable development.

Since 2000, ECE has carried out second-cycle EPRs in Albania, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Montenegro, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Tajikistan, North Macedonia, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan.

At the Seventh Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (Astana, Kazakhstan, 2011), Ministers reaffirmed their support to the ECE EPR Programme. They invited ECE to pursue a third cycle. At the Eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (Batumi, Georgia, 2016), Ministers highlighted the role of EPRs in supporting the **achievement and monitoring of Sustainable Development Goals**.

Third-cycle EPRs focus on environmental governance and financing in a green economy context, countries' cooperation with the international community and environmental mainstreaming in priority sectors.

Since 2017, EPRs address relevant Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Since 2012, ECE has conducted third-cycle EPRs in Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. Third EPR of Kyrgyzstan is on-going.

At the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (Nicosia, Cyprus, 2022) Ministers endorsed the **Fourth-cycle EPRs** and encouraged countries to undertake further reviews and consider elaborating road maps to implement EPR recommendations.

The focus of **Fourth-cycle EPRs** is similar to third-cycle EPRs. In addition, fourth-cycle EPRs will offer an enhanced review of circular economy, mainstreaming gender into environmental policy, environmental human rights issues, and a nexus approach, depending on the country needs.

Tajikistan is the first country undertaking a fourth EPR, followed by Montenegro and the Republic of Moldova.

The efficiency and effectiveness of the EPR methodology have attracted the attention of countries outside ECE region, leading to requests for a transfer of know-how from ECE to other United Nations regional commissions. Morocco was the first country outside the ECE region for which a review was carried out by ECE in cooperation with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), followed by Mongolia in cooperation with United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia, and the Pacific, a second review of Morocco and a review of Mauritania in cooperation with ECA.



Environmental Performance Review country review mission, 6–15 November 2023

Review period: 2016–2023

Part I: Environmental governance and financing

1. Legal, political and institutional framework for environmental protection and sustainable development (*Nick Bonvoisin, UNECE, nicholas.bonvoisin@un.org*)
2. Regulatory and compliance assurance mechanisms (*Vadim Ni, UNECE consultant, vadimnee68@gmail.com*)
3. Greening the economy and financing environmental protection (*Luke Mackle, OECD, luke.mackle@oecd.org*)
4. Environmental monitoring, information and science (*Alisa Kutzer, Germany, alisa.kutzer@gmx.de*)
5. Public participation and education for sustainable development (*Yelyzaveta Aleksyeyeva, UNECE consultant, e.aleksyeyeva@gmail.com*)
6. Climate change and glacier melt (*Alessandra Fianza, Italy, fidanza.alessandra@mase.gov.it*)
7. Implementation of international agreements and commitments (*Elena Santer, UNECE, elena.santer@un.org*)

Part II: Environmental media and pollution management

8. Air protection (*Olivera Kujundzic, UNECE consultant, ohoo29@gmail.com*)
9. Water management (*Konstantin Grambow-Korhammer, Germany, konstantin.grambow-korhammer@posteo.de*)
10. Waste and chemicals management (*Marina Khotuleva, UNECE consultant, mkhotuleva@ecoline-int.org*)
11. Biodiversity and protected areas (*Nick Marchesi, European Investment Bank, n.marchesi@eib.org*)
12. Soil conservation (*Pandi Zdruli, UNECE consultant, pandi@iamb.it*)

Part III: Integration of environmental objectives into selected sectors

13. Industry, mining and the environment (*Karin Fuéri, UNECE, karin.fueri@un.org*)
14. Energy and the environment (*Igor Litvinyuk, UNECE, litvinyuk@un.org*)
15. Agriculture and the environment (*Herve Lethier, UNECE consultant, herve.letthier@wanadoo.fr*)
16. Transport and the environment (*Kevin Hui Fung Li, UNECE, hui.li@un.org*)
17. Health and the environment (*Sylvie Eymard, France, sylvie.eymard@gmail.com*)

EPR-relevant SDGs will be addressed in respective chapters
Gender and environmental human rights issues will be addressed in respective chapters

Implementation of Recommendations of the Third EPR of Tajikistan will be addressed in relevant chapters

Annexes

1. Status of implementing Third EPR Recommendations
2. Highlights of SDG targets addressed in the EPR of Tajikistan
3. Participation of Tajikistan in multilateral environmental agreements
4. List of major environment-related legislation
5. Sources

United Nations
Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
Environmental Division
CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland
Palais des Nations

Mr. Antoine Nunes
Programme Manager
Tel.: + 41 79 277 5243
antoine.nunes@un.org

Ms. Angela Sochirca
Substantive coordinator
angela.sochirca@un.org

Ms. Oksana Rott
Logistics coordinator
oksana.rott@un.org

EPR reports may be obtained from bookstores and distributors throughout the world. Free access to EPR reports is also available on our website <http://www.unece.org/env/epr/>



 info.epr@un.org

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW



TAJIKISTAN

Fourth Review

