



2022

UNECE Environmental Performance Reviews

Selected findings
from the reviews conducted
in the period 2012–2019



UNECE



Launch of the Third EPR of Kazakhstan, 2019



Committee on Environmental Policy, 2019



Team for the Third EPR of Uzbekistan, 2019



Launch of the Third EPR of Tajikistan, 2017



Committee on Environmental Policy, 2019



Budva workshop, 2019



Committee on Environmental Policy, 2019



Samarkand, Third EPR of Uzbekistan, 2019



Team discussions, Uzbekistan, 2019



Expert Group on EPRs, 2019

UNECE Environmental Performance Reviews

Key objectives of the Environmental Performance Review (EPR) Programme of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) are:

- To assist countries to improve their environmental performance by providing concrete recommendations for better policy design and implementation
- To promote the exchange of information among countries about policies and experiences
- To assist the integration of environmental considerations into sector-specific policies (e.g. agriculture, industry, energy or transport)
- To promote greater accountability to the public
- To strengthen countries' cooperation with the international community
- To contribute to the achievement and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Over the past two decades, EPRs have resulted in:

- Improved policy and legal frameworks and better integration of environmental concerns into sectoral policies
- Stronger institutions for environmental management and protection
- Enhanced environmental monitoring and information systems
- Improved financial resources for environmental protection and greening the economy
- Strengthened public participation
- Increased international cooperation.

Since 2017, the EPR Programme assists reviewed countries in the implementation of the recommendations of their reviews through peer-learning workshops aimed at sharing the good practices. Since 2018, the Programme implements a United Nations Development Account project in which five countries of South-Eastern Europe prepare policy packages to put into practice some of their third-cycle review recommendations related to the Sustainable Development Goals.

The third cycle of reviews

Two EPR cycles have already taken place. The third cycle of reviews commenced in 2012 and is still ongoing. The key topics for the third cycle are:

- Environmental governance and financing in a green economy context
- Countries' cooperation with the international community
- Environmental mainstreaming in priority sectors.

An additional thematic angle on the Sustainable Development Goals has been added to all reviews conducted since 2017.

Why this calendar?

This calendar covers the findings on selected environmental topics from 12 third-cycle reviews – the Republic of Moldova (2013), Montenegro (2014), Serbia (2014), Georgia (2015), Belarus (2015), Tajikistan (2016), Bulgaria (2016), Albania (2017), Bosnia and Herzegovina (2017), Kazakhstan (2019), North Macedonia (2019) and Uzbekistan (2019) – and the review of Mongolia (2017).

By disseminating the results of the reviews in the form of a calendar for the upcoming year, UNECE aims to draw attention to the findings of the reviews and encourage the implementation of the review recommendations in 2020 and beyond.

For a comprehensive picture of the findings and recommendations of individual reviews, the full texts of the EPR publications should be consulted.

Printed copies of EPR publications may be obtained from the United Nations Department of Public Information (<https://shop.un.org/>). The reviews are also available online (www.unece.org/env/epr/).

Acknowledgements

UNECE is grateful to all countries that have hosted EPRs for their trust, close cooperation and hard work with the international expert teams in the process of preparation of the reviews.

UNECE would also like to express its deep appreciation to the governments of Austria, Bulgaria, Finland, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Sweden and Switzerland and to the European Union for their support by providing funds for the reviews covered in this calendar.

Sincere thanks go to the governments and organizations that provided experts to the international expert teams that prepared the reviews featured in this calendar: Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Sweden, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Joint United Nations Environment Programme/Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs Environment Unit, the World Health Organization, the European Environment Agency and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

UNECE also takes this opportunity to express its warm appreciation to Belarus, Bulgaria, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Kazakhstan, Montenegro, the Netherlands, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Sweden, Switzerland and Uzbekistan for having provided their experts to the UNECE Expert Group on Environmental Performance Reviews, which undertook expert assessment of the reviews covered in this calendar.

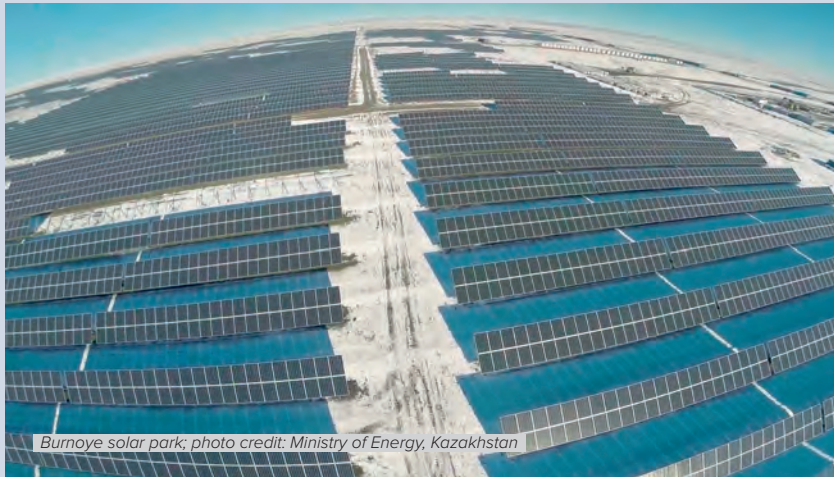
Last but not least, deep appreciation is due to the United Nations country teams in the reviewed countries for their great support to international expert teams on the ground.



January

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	1	2

Investing in environmental protection & green economy



Public environmental protection expenditures remain very low in all countries reviewed in the third cycle. Regular assessments of the levels and structure of expenditures are, in general, lacking, with the consequence that they are not always well aligned with priorities established in strategic documents. There is scope for improving the effectiveness and efficiency of environmental expenditures. Revenues collected from environmental taxes and fines are often not earmarked for financing environmental expenditures. Lack of detailed data renders it difficult to compare the benefits of environmental protection with its actual costs.

While policies and legal frameworks for public–private partnerships in areas such as waste

management are being introduced, their actual implementation in many countries is at an initial stage. Available information suggests that environmental protection expenditures in the business sector are relatively small, but in most countries these data are not available.

The efficiency and transparency of public procurement has improved, but legal frameworks for green procurement are not yet developed or implemented. A major challenge with regard to implementation of target 12.7 (on sustainable public procurement) of the Sustainable Development Goals is building the required institutional capacity, including the development and strengthening of human skills.



Tajikistan

February

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	1

Gender & the environment



Preparing dung for fuel, Pamir Mountains; photo credit: Nataliya Idrisova

Third-cycle EPRs increasingly look at issues relating to gender and the environment.

In rural Tajikistan, fetching water impacts on the distribution of women's and children's time and effort, as well as their health conditions.

Unreliable power supply in Uzbekistan has a clear gender dimension: women typically perform most household obligations but cannot take advantage of labour-saving electrical appliances, which creates barriers for working women.

In North Macedonia, women made up only 33.2 per cent of the employed population in 2017. In Kazakhstan's agricultural sector, only 13 per cent of

the agricultural enterprises and 20 per cent of the small farms are managed by women.

In most reviewed countries, statistical offices collect a significant volume of gender-based statistics but no "gender and environment" statistics are collected. This is an important area to develop considering the requirements for gender-disaggregated information for monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals and the need for such information to inform policy development.

On the positive side, many reviewed countries show progress in integrating gender equality topics into curricula as part of their efforts to advance education for sustainable development.



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https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_1050

