

UNECE

Tajikistan

Environmental Performance Reviews

Third Review



UNITED NATIONS

ECE/CEP/180

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE REVIEWS

TAJIKISTAN

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UNITED NATIONS

New York and Geneva, 2017

Environmental Performance Reviews Series No. 45

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The United Nations issued the second Environmental Performance Review of Tajikistan (Environmental Performance Reviews Series No. 33) in 2012.

This volume is issued in English and in Russian.

Information cut-off date: 1 December 2016.

ECE Information Unit
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

Tel.: +41 (0)22 917 44 44
Fax: +41 (0)22 917 05 05
E-mail: info.ece@unece.org
Website: <http://www.unece.org>

ECE/CEP/180

UNITED NATIONS PUBLICATION

<i>Sales: E.17.II.E.8</i>

ISBN: 978-92-1-117128-0

eISBN: 978-92-1-060169-4

ISSN 1020-4563

Foreword

It is essential to monitor progress towards environmental sustainability and to evaluate how countries reconcile environmental and economic targets and meet their international environmental commitments. Through regular monitoring and evaluation, countries may more effectively stay ahead of emerging environmental issues, improve their environmental performance and be accountable to their citizens. The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Environmental Performance Review Programme provides valuable assistance to member States by regularly assessing their environmental performance. Countries can then take steps to improve their environmental management, integrate environmental considerations into economic sectors, increase the availability of information to the public and promote information exchange with other countries on policies and experiences.

Last year, during the 20 years' anniversary of ECE Environmental Performance Reviews, we undertook a process of reflection and evaluation of the review process itself. One thing is clear: it has been a valuable mechanism in evaluating the implementation of the extensive environmental legislation enacted and the numerous environment-related conventions ratified by ECE member States. All the countries of the region have benefited from the discussions on the recommendations of the Environmental Performance Reviews, which entail the sharing of environmental data and knowledge and a frank exchange on best practices and lessons learned.

Recently, new instruments, such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, have been negotiated and adopted to address sustainable development challenges. ECE peer review mechanisms, including the Environmental Performance Reviews, play an important role in assessing how well countries are addressing such challenges and meeting their commitments, both old and new. These mechanisms will also continue to provide an opportunity to evaluate whether policies are achieving results, whether there might be better ways to do so and how to address any shortcomings.

The third Environmental Performance Review of Tajikistan brings together a wealth of information to build a picture of the country's environmental governance and performance — both in terms of achievements and shortcomings. I trust that this third review will serve as a powerful tool to support policymakers and representatives of civil society in their efforts to improve environmental management and further promote sustainable development in Tajikistan. ECE wishes the Government of Tajikistan further success in carrying out the tasks involved in meeting its environmental objectives, including the implementation of the recommendations in the third review. I also hope that the lessons learned from the peer review process in Tajikistan will benefit other countries throughout the ECE region and facilitate the achievement and monitoring of the SDGs.



Christian Friis Bach
Executive Secretary
Economic Commission for Europe

Preface

This third Environmental Performance Review (EPR) of Tajikistan takes stock of progress made by Tajikistan in the management of its environment since it was reviewed for the second time in 2010 and assesses the implementation of the recommendations made in the second review. It covers issues of specific importance to the country related to legal and policy frameworks, the financing of environmental expenditures, greening the economy, air protection, water and waste management and biodiversity conservation. It also examines the efforts of Tajikistan to integrate environmental considerations in its policies in the agriculture, industry, energy, transport, housing and health sectors and highlights the progress achieved in the management of disaster risk associated with natural and man-made hazards.

The review further provides a substantive and policy analysis of the country's climate change adaptation and mitigation measures and its participation in international mechanisms. The successes of Tajikistan in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals are highlighted, as well as the challenges to be addressed by the country when implementing the globally-agreed Sustainable Development Goals.

The third EPR of Tajikistan began in August 2015 with a preparatory mission to agree on the structure of the report and the schedule for its completion. A team of international experts took part in the review mission from 9 to 18 November 2015. The draft report was submitted to Tajikistan for comment in September 2016. It was submitted to the ECE Expert Group on Environmental Performance Reviews for consideration in November 2016. During its meeting on 7 and 8 December 2016, the Expert Group discussed the draft report with expert representatives of the Government of Tajikistan, focusing on the conclusions and recommendations made by the international experts. The recommendations, with suggested amendments from the Expert Group, were then submitted for peer review to the ECE Committee on Environmental Policy at its twenty-second session on 26 January 2017. A high-level delegation from Tajikistan participated in the peer review and the Committee adopted the recommendations in this report.

The Committee and the ECE secretariat are grateful to the Government of Tajikistan and its experts who worked with the international experts and contributed their knowledge and assistance. ECE would also like to express its appreciation to the German Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety and the German Federal Environment Agency for their support by providing funds through the Advisory Assistance Programme, and to Switzerland for its financial contribution. Sincere thanks also go to Finland, Portugal, the World Health Organization and the Joint United Nations Environment Programme/Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs Environment Unit for having provided their experts and to the United Nations Development Programme for its support of this review.

ECE also takes the opportunity to thank Austria, the Netherlands and Norway for their general financial support to the EPR Programme and expresses its deep appreciation to Belarus, Estonia, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Montenegro, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Sweden and Switzerland for having provided their experts for the ECE Expert Group on Environmental Performance Reviews, which undertook the expert review of this report.

TEAM MEMBERS



Mr. Antoine Nunes	ECE	Team leader
Ms. Iulia Trombitcaia	ECE	Project coordinator
Ms. Oksana Rott	ECE	Logistics coordinator
Mr. Jyrki Hirvonen	ECE	Introduction
Ms. Iulia Trombitcaia	ECE	Chapter 1
Mr. Valeriu Mosanu	ECE consultant	Chapter 2
Mr. Dieter Hesse	ECE consultant	Chapter 3
Mr. Vadim Ni	ECE consultant	Chapter 4
Mr. Cornelis Braams	ECE consultant	Chapter 5
Ms. Ana Katila Ribeiro	Portugal	Chapter 6
Mr. Juraj Farkaš	ECE consultant	Chapter 7
Mr. Zbigniew Niewiadomski	ECE consultant	Chapter 8
Ms. Anna Kuhmonen	Finland	Chapter 9
Mr. Yaroslav Bulych	ECE	Chapter 10
Ms. Irina Davis	ECE consultant	Chapter 11
Mr. Konstantin Glukhenkiy	ECE	Chapter 12
Ms. Irina Gentsler	ECE consultant	Chapter 13
Mr. Vladimir Kendrovski	WHO	Chapter 14
Ms. Dafina Dalbokova	ECE consultant	
Ms. Emilia Wahlstrom	UNEP/OCHA	Chapter 15

Ms. Naira Muradyan compiled annexes II and V.

EXPERT GROUP FOR THE THIRD EPR OF TAJIKISTAN



Ms. Marina Philipuyk	Belarus	Expert Group
Mr. Harry Liiv	Estonia	Expert Group
Ms. Mariam Makarova	Georgia	Expert Group
Ms. Katharina Lenz	Germany	Expert Group
Mr. Andras Guti	Hungary	Expert Group
Ms. Olivera Kujundzic	Montenegro	Expert Group
Mr. Adrian Panciuc	Republic of Moldova	Expert Group
Ms. Luminita Ghita	Romania	Expert Group
Ms. Ann-Sofi Israelson	Sweden	Expert Group
Mr. Xavier Tschumi Canosa	Switzerland	Expert Group
Mr. Viktor Badaker	ECE	Invited reviewer
Mr. Miquel Gangonells	ECE	Invited reviewer
Mr. Ariel Ivanier	ECE	Invited reviewer
Mr. Jose Palacin	ECE	Invited reviewer
Ms. Mirey Atallah	UN-REDD Programme Secretariat	Invited reviewer

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