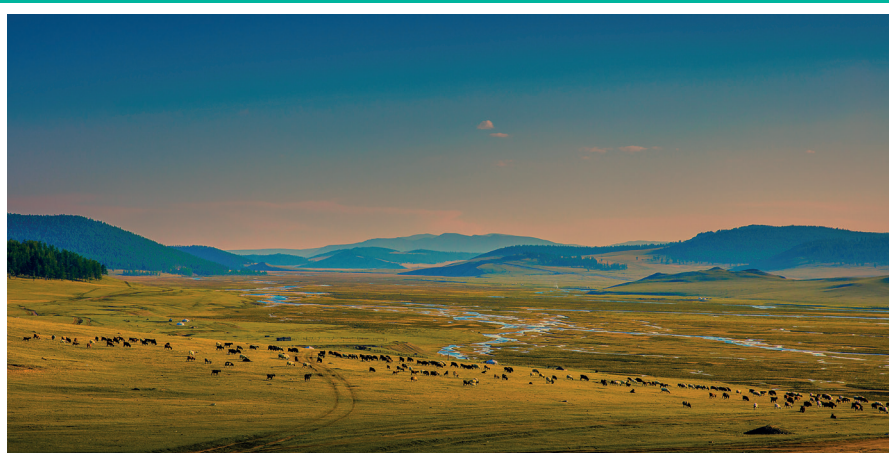


UNECE

Mongolia

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Foreword

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Environmental Performance Review (EPR) Programme provides assistance to its member States by regularly assessing their environmental performance. Countries 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. Over two decades, these reviews have resulted in stronger institutions for environmental management, improved financial frameworks for environmental protection and greening the economy, advanced environmental monitoring and information systems, better integration of environmental concerns into sectoral policies, strengthened public participation and increased international cooperation across the ECE region.

This EPR of Mongolia, conducted upon request of the Government of Mongolia, is notable as Mongolia is the second country outside the region to request an EPR from ECE, and the process was undertaken in cooperation with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). The EPR process has brought together good practices and a wealth of experience from both ECE member States and Mongolia in a process of a mutually-enriching learning exchange for the benefit of our common environment.

This review is also special, since it was conducted at the beginning of our efforts to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), when countries are shaping their national targets and setting up the policy frameworks and institutional mechanisms for implementation and follow-up. Here, Mongolia is among the frontrunners, having integrated the SDGs into its key policy document – the 2016 Mongolia Sustainable Development Vision 2030 – and demonstrating remarkable progress with awareness and ownership of the SDGs. This EPR equips the Government and interested stakeholders in Mongolia with recommendations to inspire future work on the achievement of the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda. The review also contributes to the ESCAP-led Sustainability Outlook for Mongolia and has an aim to feed into the Pathways for Implementation of the Internationally Agreed Commitments of Mongolia in the future.

ECE is honoured to offer its flagship product to the Government of Mongolia. I trust that this review will serve as a powerful tool to support policymakers and representatives of civil society in their efforts to improve environmental governance and achieve the SDGs in Mongolia. ECE wishes the Government of Mongolia further success in carrying out the tasks involved in meeting its environmental and sustainable development objectives, including through the implementation of the recommendations in this review. I also hope that the lessons learned from the peer review process in Mongolia will benefit countries throughout the ECE region.

Olga Algayerova



Executive Secretary
Economic Commission for Europe

Preface

This Environmental Performance Review of Mongolia takes stock of progress made by the country in the management of its environment since 1987. It covers legal and policy frameworks, compliance assurance, greening the economy, environmental monitoring, public participation and education for sustainable development. Furthermore, the EPR addresses issues of specific importance to the country related to air protection, biodiversity conservation and water, waste and land management. It also examines the efforts of Mongolia to integrate environmental considerations into its policies in the forestry and health sectors and highlights the progress achieved in the management of disaster risk associated with natural and human-made hazards. The review further provides a substantive and policy analysis of the country's participation in international cooperation on the environment, with a specific focus on the three Rio Conventions.

The successes of Mongolia 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 EPR of Mongolia began in January 2017 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 22 to 30 May 2017. In September 2017, the draft report was submitted to Mongolia for comments and to the ECE Expert Group on Environmental Performance Reviews for consideration. During its meeting on 25 and 26 October 2017, the Expert Group discussed the draft report with the delegation from Mongolia, 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-third session on 16 November 2017. A high-level delegation from Mongolia 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 Mongolia and its experts who worked with the international experts and contributed their knowledge and expertise. 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. Sincere thanks also go to France, Germany, Portugal and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) for having provided their experts and to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for its support of this review.

ECE also takes the opportunity to thank Portugal and Switzerland for their general financial support to the EPR Programme in 2017 and expresses its deep appreciation to Belarus, Estonia, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Montenegro, Republic of Moldova, Romania and Switzerland for having provided their experts for the ECE Expert Group on Environmental Performance Reviews, which undertook the expert review of this report.

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