

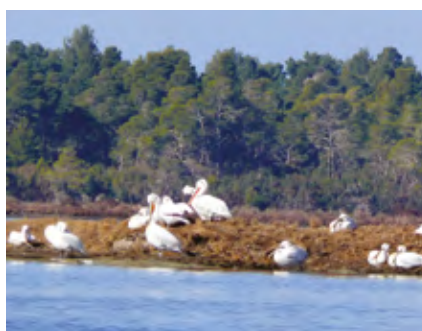
**UNECE**

# Albania

## Environmental Performance Reviews



Third Review



**UNITED NATIONS**

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

# ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE REVIEWS

## ALBANIA

### Third Review



UNITED NATIONS

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## *Foreword*

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The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Environmental Performance Review (EPR) Programme provides assistance to 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 is the third EPR of Albania published by ECE. The review takes stock of the progress made by Albania in the management of its environment since the country was reviewed for the second time in 2012. During the review period, Albania reached an important milestone, when, in 2014, the European Council granted Albania candidate status. Membership of the European Union is the overarching goal pursued by Albania that has been and will continue to be the main driver of change, including in the environmental domain. Furthermore, the Government has progressed with aligning its national agenda, as set out in the National Strategy for Development and Integration for the period 2015–2020, with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and has been among the frontrunners to ratify the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. These political priorities are at the heart of the changes highlighted in this EPR, which equips the Government and relevant stakeholders in Albania with recommendations to inspire future work on the achievement of the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda and the national climate change commitments, within the process of the accession to the European Union.

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 achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in Albania. ECE wishes the Government of Albania further success in carrying out the tasks involved in meeting its environmental objectives, including through the implementation of the recommendations in the third review. I also hope that the lessons learned from the peer review process in Albania will benefit other countries throughout the ECE region.

Olga Algayerova



Executive Secretary  
Economic Commission for Europe



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# *Preface*

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This third Environmental Performance Review (EPR) of Albania takes stock of progress made by Albania in the management of its environment since it was reviewed for the second time in 2012 and assesses the implementation of the recommendations made in the second review. It covers legal and policy frameworks, 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 and protected areas, as well as water, waste and chemicals management. It also examines the efforts of Albania to integrate environmental considerations into its policies in the transport, energy and industry sectors. 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 Albania in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are highlighted, as are the challenges to be addressed by the country when implementing the globally-agreed Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

This EPR of Albania began in December 2016 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 31 January to 8 February 2017. In September 2017, the draft report was submitted to Albania for comments and to the ECE Expert Group on Environmental Performance Reviews for consideration. During its meeting on 23 October 2017, the Expert Group discussed the draft report with a delegation from Albania, 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 Albania 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 Albania 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 Italy, Hungary, 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 this 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, the 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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