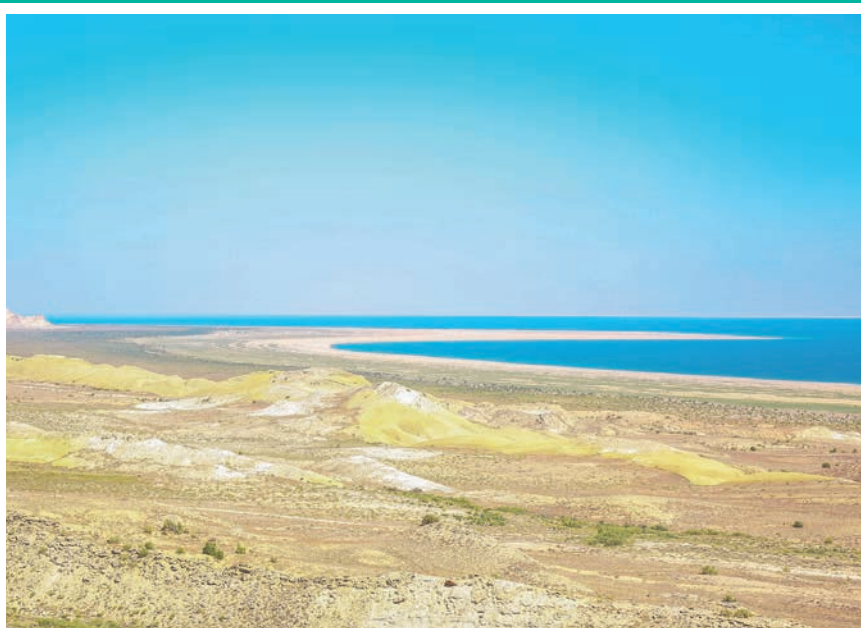
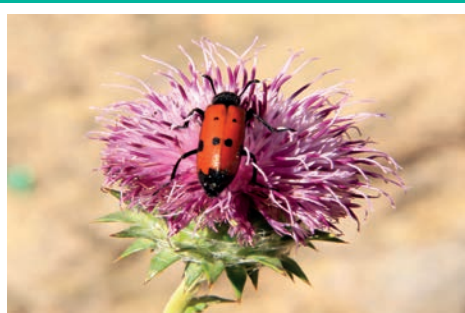


Uzbekistan

Environmental Performance Reviews



Third Review



UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE REVIEWS

UZBEKISTAN

Third Review



UNITED NATIONS

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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: unece_info@un.org
Website: www.unece.org

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Foreword

This third Environmental Performance Review (EPR) of Uzbekistan builds on the substantial experience accumulated by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and its member States in using this tool to regularly assess progress achieved in reconciling national economic and environmental objectives. Over two decades, EPRs have resulted in stronger institutions for environmental management, improved financial frameworks for environmental protection, advanced environmental monitoring and information systems, better integration of environmental concerns into sectoral policies, strengthened public participation and increased international cooperation. They bring together good practices and a wealth of experience from all ECE member States in a mutually enriching learning exchange.

ECE is privileged to have conducted this EPR at the time when Uzbekistan is in the midst of political, economic and social reforms. Its environmental policy develops in leaps and bounds, with the Concept on Environmental Protection until 2030, the Strategy for Transition to Green Economy for the period 2019–2030 and several other documents setting the scene for major environmental issues adopted in the course of 2019. Rich in natural gas, gold, uranium and other mineral resources, Uzbekistan actively attracts international investments, implements large infrastructure projects and is confronted with difficult choices in finding its way to long-term growth based on climate-friendly technologies and the sustainable management of natural resources. The EPR highlights challenges but also opportunities and solutions in this respect.

This review is also special since it comes right after the adoption by Uzbekistan of the national Sustainable Development Goals, targets and indicators based on the global Sustainable Development Goals, targets and indicators. It reflects on the outcomes of adapting the global Goals to national circumstances and equips the Government and interested stakeholders in Uzbekistan with recommendations to inspire future work to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the national climate change commitments under the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

I trust that this third review will serve as a powerful tool to support policymakers and other stakeholders in their efforts to improve environmental management and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in Uzbekistan. ECE wishes the Government of Uzbekistan 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 Uzbekistan will benefit other countries throughout the ECE region.

Olga Algayerova



Executive Secretary
Economic Commission for Europe

Preface

This third EPR of Uzbekistan takes stock of progress made by Uzbekistan in the management of its environment since it was reviewed for the second time in 2009–2010 and assesses the implementation of the recommendations made in the second review.

The EPR covers legal and policy frameworks and environmental compliance assurance mechanisms and addresses the topics of greening the economy, environmental monitoring, public participation and education. Furthermore, it addresses issues of specific importance to the country related to air protection, biodiversity and protected areas, as well as water, waste and chemicals management. The EPR also examines the efforts of Uzbekistan to integrate environmental considerations into its policies in the energy, agriculture, transport, industry and health sectors and to make human settlements more environmentally friendly. The Aral Sea disaster and its consequences for the environment and human health come as a cross-cutting issue throughout the review. 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. It includes an assessment of progress towards relevant targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and provides recommendations related to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals.

This EPR of Uzbekistan began in September 2018 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 25 February to 5 March 2019. In September 2019, the draft report was sent to Uzbekistan for comments. In October 2019, it was submitted to the ECE Expert Group on Environmental Performance Reviews for consideration. During its meeting on 31 October–1 November 2019, the Expert Group discussed the draft report with a delegation from Uzbekistan, 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-fifth session on 13–15 November 2019. A high-level delegation from Uzbekistan 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 Uzbekistan and its experts who worked with the international experts and contributed their knowledge and expertise. ECE would also like to express its deep 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 support to this review.

Sincere thanks also go to Hungary, Italy, Portugal, the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development for having provided their experts to this review. Furthermore, ECE is grateful to the United Nations Country Team in Uzbekistan for its support of this review.

ECE also takes this opportunity to thank Austria, Germany, Norway, Portugal, Switzerland and the European Union for their financial support to the EPR Programme in 2018–2019 and expresses its deep appreciation to Estonia, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Montenegro, 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.

TEAM MEMBERS



Mr. Antoine Nunes	ECE	Team leader
Ms. Iulia Trombitcaia	ECE	Project coordinator
Ms. Oksana Rott	ECE	Logistics coordinator
Mr. Jahongir Usmonov	ECE consultant	Logistics and support assistant
Ms. Iulia Trombitcaia	ECE	Chapter 1
Mr. Vadim Ni	ECE consultant	Chapter 2
Mr. Dieter Hesse	ECE consultant	Chapter 3
Mr. Tomas Marques	UNEP	Chapter 4
Mr. Olzhas Atymtayev	UNEP	Chapter 4
Ms. Angela Sochirca	ECE	Chapter 5
Ms. Elisabete Quintas da Silva	Portugal	Chapter 6
Ms. Ana Vukoje	UNEP	Chapter 7
Mr. Cornelis Braams	ECE consultant	Chapter 8
Mr. Matthew Griffiths	OECD	Chapter 9
Mr. Juraj Farkaš	ECE consultant	Chapter 10
Mr. Zbigniew Niewiadomski	ECE consultant	Chapter 11
Mr. Viktor Badaker	ECE	Chapter 12
Mr. András Guti	Hungary	Chapter 13
Mr. Francesco Dionori	ECE	Chapter 14
Ms. Irina Davis	ECE consultant	Chapter 15
Ms. Alessandra Fidanza	Italy	Chapter 16
Mr. Frank George	WHO	Chapter 17
Ms. Dafina Dalbokova	ECE consultant	Chapter 17

Ms. Tatiana Efimova and Mr. Alexander Martoussevitch of the OECD were involved in the review, comment and analysis for chapter 9. Mr. François Cuenot of ECE and Mr. Tulkin Sultanov, ECE consultant, developed Annex IV. Mr. Nicolas Buchoud, ECE consultant, was involved in drafting some parts of the report.

EXPERT GROUP FOR THE THIRD EPR OF UZBEKISTAN



Mr. Harry Liiv
 Ms. Mariam Makarova
 Mr. Hans-Joachim Hermann
 Mr. András Guti
 Ms. Alessandra Fidanza
 Ms. Olivera Kujundzic
 Ms. Luminita Ghita
 Mr. Xavier Tschumi Canosa

Estonia
 Georgia
 Germany
 Hungary
 Italy
 Montenegro
 Romania
 Switzerland

Expert Group
 Expert Group
 Expert Group
 Expert Group
 Expert Group
 Expert Group
 Expert Group
 Expert Group

Ms. Gulnara Roll

ECE

Invited reviewer

Mr. Abdulaziz Kadyrov
 Mr. Boburjon Makhmudov
 Mr. Sanjarjon Alimov

Uzbekistan
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 Uzbekistan

Head of Delegation
 Delegation
 Delegation

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