

Environmental Performance Review Programme

An environmental performance review (EPR) is an external assessment of the progress a country has made in reconciling its environmental and economic targets and in meeting its international environmental commitments.

Since 1991 the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development has been implementing the EPR Programme for its members. Pursuant to a decision by Ministers of Environment at their Second Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (Lucerne, Switzerland, 1993), the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) has been carrying out EPRs in interested countries.

The **main objectives** of the EPR Programme are:

- To assist countries to improve their management of the environment and associated environmental performance by making concrete recommendations for better policy design and implementation;
- To promote the exchange of information among countries about policies and experiences;
- To help integrating environmental policies into sector-specific economic policies, such as agricultural, energy, transport and health policies;
- To promote greater accountability to the public;
- To strengthen cooperation with the international community;
- To contribute to the achievement and monitoring of the relevant SDGs.

As a voluntary exercise, EPR is undertaken at the request of the country under review. The assessment team, made up of international experts, meets with national experts and representatives of civil society and international community in the country under review to discuss issues covered by the review.

EPR contains recommendations for further improvement, taking into consideration the country's progress since the previous review. ECE Expert Group on EPRs expert reviews the EPR. Subsequently, the ECE Committee on Environmental Policy peer reviews the EPR recommendations and adopts them.

First-cycle EPRs established baseline conditions regarding trends, policy commitments, institutional arrangements, and routine capabilities for carrying out national evaluations.

Since 1996, the following countries of the ECE region carried out a First EPR: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Estonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Slovenia, Tajikistan, North Macedonia, Turkmenistan (in 2012 according to third-cycle EPRs methodology), Ukraine, Uzbekistan and Yugoslavia.

Second-cycle EPRs assessed progress and helped to stimulate greater accountability. Emphasis was placed on implementation and financing of environment policy, the integration of environmental concerns into economic sectors and the promotion of sustainable development.

Since 2000, ECE has carried out second-cycle EPRs in Albania, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Montenegro, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Tajikistan, North Macedonia, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan.

At the Seventh Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (Astana, Kazakhstan, 2011), Ministers reaffirmed their support to the ECE EPR Programme. They invited ECE to pursue a third cycle. At the Eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (Batumi, Georgia, 2016), Ministers highlighted the role of EPRs in supporting the **achievement and monitoring of Sustainable Development Goals**.

Third-cycle EPRs focus on environmental governance and financing in a green economy context, countries' cooperation with the international community and environmental mainstreaming in priority sectors.

Since 2017, EPRs address relevant Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Since 2012, ECE has conducted third-cycle EPRs in Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.

At the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (Nicosia, Cyprus, 2022) Ministers endorsed the **Fourth-cycle EPRs** and encouraged countries to undertake further reviews and consider elaborating road maps to implement EPR recommendations.

The focus of **Fourth-cycle EPRs** is similar to third-cycle EPRs. In addition, fourth-cycle EPRs will offer an enhanced review of circular economy, mainstreaming gender into environmental policy, environmental human rights issues, and a nexus approach, depending on the country needs. In 2023–2024, the fourth EPR of Tajikistan is on-going.

Montenegro is the second country undertaking a fourth EPR, followed by the Republic of Moldova.

The efficiency and effectiveness of the EPR methodology have attracted the attention of countries outside ECE region, leading to requests for a transfer of know-how from ECE to other United Nations regional commissions. Morocco was the first country outside the ECE region for which a review was carried out by ECE in cooperation with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), followed by Mongolia in cooperation with United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia, and the Pacific, a second review of Morocco and a review of Mauritania in cooperation with ECA.



Environmental Performance Review country review mission, 22–29 April 2024

Review period: 2013–2023

Part I: Environmental governance and financing

1. Legal, political and institutional framework for environmental protection and sustainable development (*Clara Bocchino, EIB, c.bocchino@eib.org*)
2. Regulatory and compliance assurance mechanisms (*Chris Dijkens, UNECE, chris.dijkens@gmail.com*)
3. Greening the economy and financing environmental protection (*Saraly Andrade de Sa, UNECE, saraly@ifro.ku.dk*)
4. Environmental monitoring and information (*Angela Sochirca, UNECE, angela.sochirca@un.org*)
5. Implementation of international agreements and commitments (*Elena Santer, UNECE, elena.santer@un.org*)
6. Climate change (*Alessandra Fidanza, Italy, fidanza.alessandra@mase.gov.it*)

Part II: Management of environmental components and pollution

7. Air protection (*Jaakko Kuisma, Finland, jaakko.kuisma@gov.fi*)
8. Water management (*Tina Carolin Reutelshöfer, Germany, tina_reutelshoef@mailbox.org*)
9. Waste and chemicals management (*Andrés Guti, UNECE, gutiandras@gmail.com*)
10. Biodiversity and protected areas (*Thierry Lucas, UNEP, thierry.lucas@un.org*)

Part III: Mainstreaming environmental issues into selected sectors

11. Tourism and the environment (*Nick Bonvoisin, UNECE, nicholas.bonvoisin@un.org*)
12. Forestry and the environment (*Andrew Inglis, UNECE, asinglis@gmail.com*)
13. Industry and the environment (*Karin Fuéri, UNECE, karin.fueri@un.org*)
14. Nexus: Energy – Air pollution – Health protection (*Sylvie Eymard, France, sylvie.eynard@gmail.com and François Cuenot, UNECE, francois.cuenot@un.org*)

EPR-relevant SDGs will be addressed in respective chapters

Gender and **environmental human rights** issues will be addressed in respective chapters

Implementation of Recommendations of 3rd EPR will be addressed in relevant chapters

Annexes

1. Status of implementing Recommendations of 3rd EPR
2. Highlights of SDG targets addressed in the 4th EPR
3. Participation in MEAs
4. List of major environment-related legislation
5. Sources

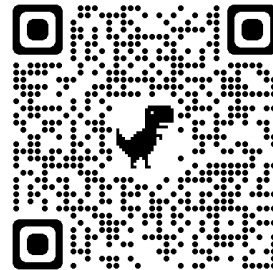
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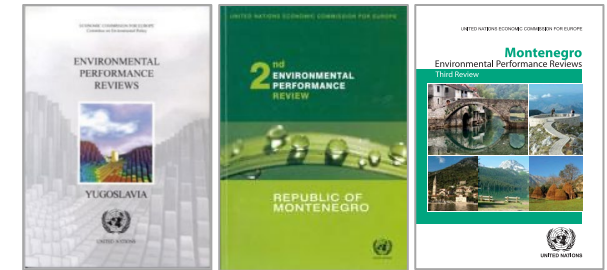
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United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW



MONTENEGRO

Fourth Review

