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TAJIKISTAN



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NOTE

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Foreword

Environmental Performance Reviews for countries-in-transition were initiated by Environment Ministers at the second "Environment for Europe" Conference in Lucerne, Switzerland, in 1993. As a result, the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy decided to make the Environmental Performance Reviews a part of its regular programme.

Ten years later, at the Fifth Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe (Kiev, 21-23 May 2003), the Ministers confirmed that the UNECE programme of environmental performance reviews (EPR) had made it possible to assess the effectiveness of the efforts of countries with economies in transition to manage the environment, and to offer the Governments concerned tailor-made recommendations on improving environmental management to reduce their pollution load, to better integrate environmental policies into sectoral policies and to strengthen cooperation with the international community. They also reaffirmed their support for the EPR programme as an important instrument for countries with economies in transition, and decided that the programme should continue.

Through the Peer Review process, Environmental Performance Reviews also promote dialogue among UNECE member countries and harmonization of environmental conditions and policies throughout the region. As a voluntary exercise, the Environmental Performance Review is undertaken only at the request of the country itself.

The studies are carried out by international teams of experts from the region, working closely with national experts from the reviewed country. The teams also benefit from close cooperation with other organizations in the United Nations system, including the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Bank and the World Health Organization, as well as with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

The Environmental Performance Review of Tajikistan is the twenty-first in the series published by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. I hope that this Review will be useful to all countries in the region, to intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations alike and, especially, to Tajikistan, its Government and its people.

Brigita Schmögnerová Executive Secretary

Yelmorg

Preface

The Environmental Performance Review (EPR) of Tajikistan began in October 2003, with the preparatory mission, during which the final structure of the report was discussed and established. Thereafter, the review team of international experts was constituted. It included experts from Sweden, Switzerland and Ukraine together with experts from the secretariats of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the Regional Office for Europe of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP/ROE) and the European Centre for Environment and Health of the World Health Organization (WHO/ECEH).

The review mission took place from 26 March to 8 April 2004. A draft of the conclusions and recommendations as well the draft EPR report were submitted to Tajikistan for comment in July 2004. In September 2004, the draft was submitted for consideration to the Ad Hoc Expert Group on Environmental Performance. During this meeting, the Expert Group discussed the report in detail with expert representatives of the Tajikistan Government, focusing, in particular on the conclusions and recommendations made by the international experts.

The EPR report, with suggested amendments from the Expert Group, was then submitted for peer review to the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy on 13 October 2004. A high-level delegation from the Government of Tajikistan participated in the peer review. The Committee adopted the recommendations as set out in this report.

The report covers twelve issues of importance to Tajikistan, concerning the framework for environmental policy, management of pollution and natural resources and economic and sectoral integration. Among the issues receiving special attention during the reviews were poverty, environment and economy; the policy, legal and institutional framework; environmental expenditures and privatisation; information, public participation and education; management of air, water and waste; agriculture; biodiversity; and eco-tourism. Since the end of its five-year civil war in 1997, Tajikistan has been rebuilding its institutions, legal framework and its economy. Considerable attention has been given to reducing poverty, raising environmental awareness among the population, halting land degradation, protecting biodiversity and reducing energy consumption, among others.

The UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy and the UNECE review team would like to thank both the Government of Tajikistan and the many excellent national experts who worked with the international experts and contributed with their knowledge and assistance. UNECE wishes the Government of Tajikistan further success in carrying out the tasks before it to meet its environmental objectives and policy, including the implementation of the conclusions and recommendations to support and promote environmental protection and especially to improve overall national living standards, and to strengthen international cooperation.

UNECE would also like to express its deep appreciation to the Governments of Germany, Hungary, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom for their support to the Environmental Performance Review Programme, to the European Centre for Environment and Health of the World Health Organization for its participation in the Review, and to the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank and WHO for their contributions to the work in Tajikistan and the preparation of this report.

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