



UNECE EPR

“Focus on biodiversity in Central Asia”



Environmental Performance Reviews

3 EPR chapters on biodiversity and protected areas



ENVIRONMENT

Standardized* thematic scope and structure:

- Trends in species (threatened, endemic, widespread, invasive alien) and ecosystems
- Performance and gaps in biodiversity monitoring networks
- Trends in development and management of protected areas
- Trends in development and management of ecological networks
- Pressures on species and ecosystems
- Legal, policy and institutional framework (incl. coordination)
- Assessment, conclusions and recommendations.

* extended on request by countries, e.g., including Aral Sea disaster case (UZ), forestry and biosafety / GMOs (TJ)

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UNECE EPRs in 5 countries of Central Asia



ENVIRONMENT

Kazakhstan:	2000, 2008*, 2019
Kyrgyzstan:	2000, 2009
Tajikistan:	2004, 2012, 2017
Turkmenistan:	2012
Uzbekistan:	2001, 2010, 2020

* biodiversity issues not covered in 2nd EPR of Kazakhstan

As Kyrgyzstan was last reviewed in 2009, and Turkmenistan in 2012, the information on the status of biodiversity and recent achievements in both countries requires updating.

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Implementation of 3rd EPR Recommendations



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Some recommendations were implemented even prior to the publication of EPR report, or soon after, e.g., a week after the launch of 3rd EPR of Kazakhstan the Ministry responsible for the environment was re-established (one of the key recommendations).

Other EPR recommendations for CA countries:

- KZ prepared, approved, and submitted for the adoption the draft Law "On the Plant World" in 2020;
- UZ planned the revision of the Law "On Protected Natural Areas" for 2021;
- KZ and UZ designated new protected areas;
- UZ established external buffer zones surrounding and protecting protected areas.

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best practice examples which CA countries can share



ENVIRONMENT

- Wild native fauna species recovery and re-introduction programmes (KZ, UZ)
- Restoration and rehabilitation of degraded aquatic, wetland and tugai forest ecosystems (UZ)
- KZ introduced ecological corridors and key ornithological areas (IBAs) into the 2006 Law on Specially Protected Natural Areas
- KZ established 4 legally protected ecological corridors (3.3. million ha in total) integrated with the spatial land use/management plans
- Emerging transboundary ecological networks in Altai-Sayan (incl. KZ) and Western Tien Shan (KG, KZ, UZ) mountain ecoregions
- Emerging large-scale transboundary protected areas (e.g., planned World Heritage transnational property “Cold winter deserts of Turan” expected to cover almost 5 million ha, involving KZ, TM and UZ)

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EPRs identified several common CA denominators



ENVIRONMENT

- Presence of diverse and unique ecosystems;
- High species diversity, incl. rare and threatened, endemic and migratory species;
- High potential for ensuring transboundary ecological connectivity

but also:

- Declining trends in populations of several threatened species;
- All main representative of natural and semi-natural ecosystems, providing important ecosystem services and habitats for the diversity of species increasingly threatened by anthropogenic pressures and adverse effects of ongoing global climate changes;
- Countries particularly affected by adverse effects of climate changes, resulting in desertification, land degradation, and large-scale environmental disasters, e.g., in the Aral Sea region (KZ, UZ).

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EPRs identified several **key challenges**



ENVIRONMENT

- **Missing or non-operational** national biodiversity monitoring (required by CBD), often limited to protected areas while the remaining non-protected part of the country either not monitored, or researched occasionally and irregularly (→ a critical bottleneck for the elaboration and adoption of sound and effective evidence-based conservation policies, including the proper identification of threats, prioritizing and planning an adequate country response)
- **Underdeveloped** national ecological networks, **not yet:**
 - ecologically representative” (covering at least the best preserved areas of all main natural ecosystems representative of the country);
 - including habitats, main refuges and mainstays of rare / threatened plant, fungi, and animal species protected by the national legislation;
 - connected by ecological corridors to form a consistent network;
 - “*effectively and equitably managed*”

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EPRs identified several **common priorities (1)**



ENVIRONMENT

- Need for the elaboration, adoption and **effective implementation** of:
 - Subsequent NBSAPs (upon the adoption of the CBD Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework)
 - Resulting national species and ecosystem conservation action plans and programmes
 - National wetlands policies and/or national programmes for wetlands conservation (required under Ramsar Convention)
 - National action plans concerning the further extension of the protected area network

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EPRs identified several **common priorities (2)**



ENVIRONMENT

- Need for undertaking urgent **ecosystem restoration measures**, and enhancing **spatial ecological connectivity** (also, in transboundary scale) of ecosystems, which is particularly important during the 2021–2030 **UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration**
- Need for **capacity building** for:
 - Biodiversity monitoring and conservation
 - Effective protected area and forest management
 - Effective law enforcement
 - Provision of necessary monitoring and field equipment.



Environmental Performance Reviews Programme

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