



United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
Ministry for the Environment and Energy Security
Directorate-General for European and International Affairs and International Finance

**Implementing sustainable infrastructure and nature-based solutions in the UNECE Region:
opportunities and co-benefits based on UNECE Environmental Performance Reviews**

**Tuesday, 1 April 2025
Geneva
Palais des Nations, Room H-542
English, Russian and French interpretation**

Objective:

The UNECE Environmental Performance Review (EPR) Programme assists and supports UNECE member countries in enhancing their environmental management and performance. The Programme is tasked with analysing the national contexts of countries within the pan-European region, and occasionally beyond, to prepare reports that may be used as the framework for multilateral or bilateral cooperation projects. Furthermore, these reports include a series of recommendations that beneficiary countries must implement over 5-10 years. Governments officially endorse these recommendations upon approval by the UNECE Committee for Environmental Policy in Geneva.

Sustainable infrastructure and nature-based solutions (NbS) are fundamental to promoting climate change mitigation and adaptation. This event's main objective is to facilitate an international dialogue on the potential for implementing sound measures for NbS in the UNECE region and beyond, with the support of International Financial Institutions (IFIs) and international donors and based upon UNECE Environmental Performance Reviews recommendations.

The event, organized by UNECE Environmental Performance Review Programme and the Italian Ministry for the Environment and Energy Security, Directorate-General for European and International Affairs and International Finance, will foster a comprehensive understanding of NbS and sustainable infrastructure concepts and benefits, share regional and international case studies, and explore policy and regulatory frameworks enabling NbS and sustainable infrastructure implementation. The workshop aims to enhance collaboration among IFIs, academia and the private sector, highlighting the role of each in advancing NbS. Additionally, the workshop will focus on identifying funding opportunities, practical steps for project implementation, and monitoring and evaluation methods to ensure the effectiveness and sustainability of initiatives. Participants will gain valuable insights and discuss actionable ideas through interactive sessions and discussions.

Agenda
1 April 2025 | 9:00-11:30 CEST

Moderator: **Ms Alessandra Fidanza**, Italy

9:00 Opening

- **Mr Alessandro Guerri**, Director-General, European and International Affairs and International Finance, Italian Ministry for the Environment and Energy Security
- **Mr Marco Keiner**, Director, Environment Division, UNECE

9:10 Investigating the potential of sustainable infrastructure and NbS in countries reviewed in UNECE EPRs and perspectives for climate action in Eastern Europe and Central Asia

- **Ms Alessandra Fidanza**, Senior Expert, Italian Ministry for the Environment and Energy Security and Vice-chair, UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy
- **Mr Thomas Eriksson**, Director, Department of the Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Middle East Region, Green Climate Fund
- **Ms Mirey Atallah**, Chief of the Adaptation and Resilience Branch, Climate Change Division, UNEP
- **Mr Giovanni Satta**, Professor, Department of Economics, University of Genoa

9:40 Co-benefits of Nature-Based Solutions and Sustainable Infrastructure

- Environment and health actions from research to applications
Ms Stefania Marcheggiani, Senior Researcher, Italian Institute of Health, EcoHealth Unit
- UNECE 2025 Report: Sustainable Infrastructure and NbS in the UNECE Region
Mr Antoine Nunes, UNECE EPR Secretariat

10:00 Sustainable Infrastructure, NbS and Climate Action in the UNECE Region

- **Mr Zafar Makhmudov**, Executive Director, Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC)
- **Ms Evetta Zenina**, Natural Resources Officer, Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO)

10:20 From theory to practice: Bridging Potential Project ideas and EPRs with Funding Opportunities

- Country representatives for the EPRs:
 - **Ms Bouchra Fari**, Morocco
 - Tajikistan
 - Kyrgyzstan
- **Ms Eva Mayerhofer**, Lead Biodiversity Specialist, European Investment Bank
- **Ms Rachel Barza**, Associate Director, Lead Climate Adaptation and Nature Finance, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
- Representative, UN Economic Commission for Africa, Office for North Africa

- **Mr Marcus Mayr**, Urban Sector Specialist, Green Climate Fund

11:10 **Questions and Answers**

11:25 **Key Takeaways & Closing Remarks**