

## Preface

The principal aim of the OECD *Environmental Performance Review* programme is to help member and selected partner countries to improve their individual and collective performance in environmental management by:

- helping individual governments to assess progress in achieving their environmental goals;
- promoting continuous policy dialogue and peer learning;
- stimulating greater accountability from governments towards each other and the public opinion.

The present report reviews the environmental performance of Portugal since the previous review in 2001. Progress in achieving domestic objectives and international commitments provides the basis for assessing environmental performance. Such objectives and commitments may be broad aims, qualitative goals, or quantitative targets. A distinction is made between intentions, actions and results. Assessment of environmental performance is also placed within the context of a country's historical environmental record, present state of the environment, physical endowment in natural resources, economic conditions, and demographic trends.

The OECD is indebted to the Government of Portugal for its co-operation in providing information, for the organisation of the review mission to Portugal (1-5 March 2010), and for facilitating contacts both inside and outside governmental institutions.

Thanks are also due to all those who helped in the course of this review, to the representatives of member countries participating in the OECD Working Party on Environmental Performance, and especially to the examining countries: Austria and France.

The team that prepared this Review comprised experts from reviewing countries: Mr. Marc Aviam (France), Mr. Jesús García Latorre (Austria); and members of the OECD Secretariat: Mr. Gérard Bonnis, Ms. Ivana Capozza, Mr. Brendan Gillespie, Mr. Krzysztof Michalak, Mr. Tappei Tsutsumi, Ms. Frédérique Zegel, and Mr. John Newman and Mr. Timothy Taylor (consultants). Ms. Carla Bertuzzi, Ms. Sylvie Dénaux, Mr. Shayne MacLachlan and Ms. Sarah Sentier (OECD Secretariat) and Mr. John Smith (consultant) provided statistical and editorial support during the preparation of the report.

The OECD Working Party on Environmental Performance discussed the draft *Environmental Performance Review* of Portugal at its meeting on 29 November 2010 in Paris, and approved the Assessment and recommendations.



**From:**  
**OECD Environmental Performance Reviews:  
Portugal 2011**

**Access the complete publication at:**  
<https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264097896-en>

**Please cite this chapter as:**

OECD (2011), "Preface", in *OECD Environmental Performance Reviews: Portugal 2011*, OECD Publishing, Paris.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264097896-2-en>

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