



# ESG Digest #41

## November 2025



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Regional

# Kazakhstan Introduces National Standards to Accelerate Carbon Neutrality

Kazakhstan has taken a major step toward its carbon neutrality goals by introducing two new national standards on climate change management: ST RK ISO 14068-1 and ST RK IWA 42.

These standards, fully aligned with ISO 14068-1:2023 and IWA 42:2022, establish unified principles for greenhouse gas management, including assessment, reduction, and offsetting of residual emissions. Their adoption strengthens Kazakhstan's MRV system (monitoring, reporting, and verification), improves transparency of climate data, and supports the integration of low-carbon technologies across industries.

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# Kazakhstan and Germany Launch Strategic Partnership to Modernize Water Infrastructure

Kazakhstan and Germany have strengthened their cooperation in sustainable water management through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between German Water Partnership and JSC “Kazakhstan Center for Modernization and Development of Housing and Utilities.” The agreement focuses on improving water supply and wastewater systems in Kazakhstan by introducing energy-

efficient and digital solutions, as well as sharing best practices in infrastructure modernization. As part of the visit, the delegation toured leading German water industry enterprises and participated in a roundtable titled “Kazakhstan–Germany Water Strategic Partnership: A New Level.”

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# Uzbekistan Partners with WRAP to Drive Ethical Textile Production

Uzbekistan has entered a strategic partnership with Worldwide Responsible Accredited Production (WRAP) to advance ethical and sustainable practices in its textile industry. The Memorandum of Understanding sets the stage for aligning Uzbekistan's textile sector with global compliance standards. A key priority is the expansion of WRAP's certification program, with plans to certify at least 100 textile and apparel enterprises within two years. The partnership also includes comprehensive training programs on labor rights,

occupational safety, and environmental management, alongside initiatives such as "Excellence in Compliance" to strengthen internal audit systems. WRAP is considering opening a local office to provide ongoing support and promote ESG principles, reinforcing Uzbekistan's commitment to responsible production and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

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# Uzbekistan Establishes National Committee to Drive Climate and Environmental Reforms

Uzbekistan has announced a major governance reform to strengthen environmental protection and tourism management through a Presidential Decree. The initiative includes the establishment of the National Committee on Ecology and Climate Change as the central authority for implementing unified state policy on environmental sustainability, climate adaptation, and biodiversity conservation. Key national projects such as “Clean Air,” “Territory Free from Waste,” and “Green Space” will be launched to improve air quality, expand green zones, and promote eco-friendly lifestyles.

The decree also introduces financial sanctions for legal entities violating environmental regulations starting April 2026 and creates a specialized enforcement unit, the “Eco-Police,” to ensure compliance. These measures aim to enhance accountability, accelerate climate resilience, and foster a systemic approach to sustainable development in Uzbekistan.

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# Central Asian Countries Sign Samarkand Declaration to Protect Wildlife

Five Central Asian countries — Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan — have signed the Samarkand Declaration and the Regional Action Plan for 2026–2032, aimed at promoting the sustainable use of wildlife resources and combating illegal trade in species. The document was adopted during the 20th Conference of the Parties to the CITES Convention and opens new opportunities for coordinated action, information exchange, and joint efforts to protect endangered species and ensure sustainable resource management across the region. The countries reaffirmed their commitment to deepening cooperation, including the development of digital monitoring tools and stronger enforcement measures against illegal trade.

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# Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan Deepen Water Cooperation for Regional Sustainability



Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan have reinforced their strategic partnership in water resource management during the 7th meeting of the Joint Water Commission held in Manas. The discussions focused on rational water use and ensuring water and energy security amid climate change challenges. Kyrgyzstan proposed several initiatives, including the introduction of drip and automated irrigation systems, the creation of a “Green Friendship Belt” along the border, and enhanced cooperation in water-energy projects. Both sides emphasized the importance of joint infrastructure projects such as the construction of the Kambarata-1 hydropower plant and the China–Kyrgyzstan–Uzbekistan railway for sustainable regional development.

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# New Climate Legislation Harmonization Agreed by CIS Parliaments in Dushanbe

The 59th plenary session of the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly in Dushanbe approved a model law on limiting greenhouse gas emissions, aiming to harmonize climate legislation across member states. This key step strengthens the region's legal foundation for environmental protection and collective climate action. Delegates also adopted model laws in healthcare, education, and defense, reinforcing cooperation on sustainable development. The meeting underscored the need for coordinated responses to global challenges and concluded with an awards ceremony honoring contributions to interparliamentary collaboration.

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Global

# COP30 in Belém Sets Bold Climate Agenda for Global Action

The 30th UN Climate Change Conference (COP30), held in Belém, Brazil, brought together 195 countries around the Belém Package and a roadmap for accelerated implementation of the Paris Agreement.

Key decisions include a USD 1tn investment package to triple renewable energy capacity by 2030, a commitment to triple adaptation finance by 2035, and the launch of the Tropical Forests Forever Facility with USD 5.5bn in pledges. The conference introduced the first Global Health Adaptation Plan, backed by over USD 300mln and involving 80 countries to address climate-related health risks. New initiatives such as the Global Implementation Accelerator and the RAIZ restoration program aim to scale resilience and equity, supported by a Gender Action Plan for women and Indigenous communities. The EU reaffirmed global leadership by setting a 90% emissions reduction target by 2040 and an interim goal of up to 72.5% by 2035.

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# Global Banks Unveil First Common Nature Finance Taxonomy to Drive Biodiversity Investment

Nine leading multilateral development banks, including the World Bank and Asian Development Bank, have launched the Common Nature Finance Taxonomy. This first global framework standardizes biodiversity and ecosystem investment criteria across seven sectors, listing over 370 eligible activities with clear qualification rules. The taxonomy aims to close a USD 200bn annual financing gap by creating a common language for investors and reducing greenwashing risks. It organizes actions into four categories: restoration and conservation, reducing drivers of nature loss, nature-based solutions in economic sectors, and enabling conditions. By setting unified standards, the initiative seeks to mobilize private capital and accelerate nature-positive finance, following the trajectory of climate finance.

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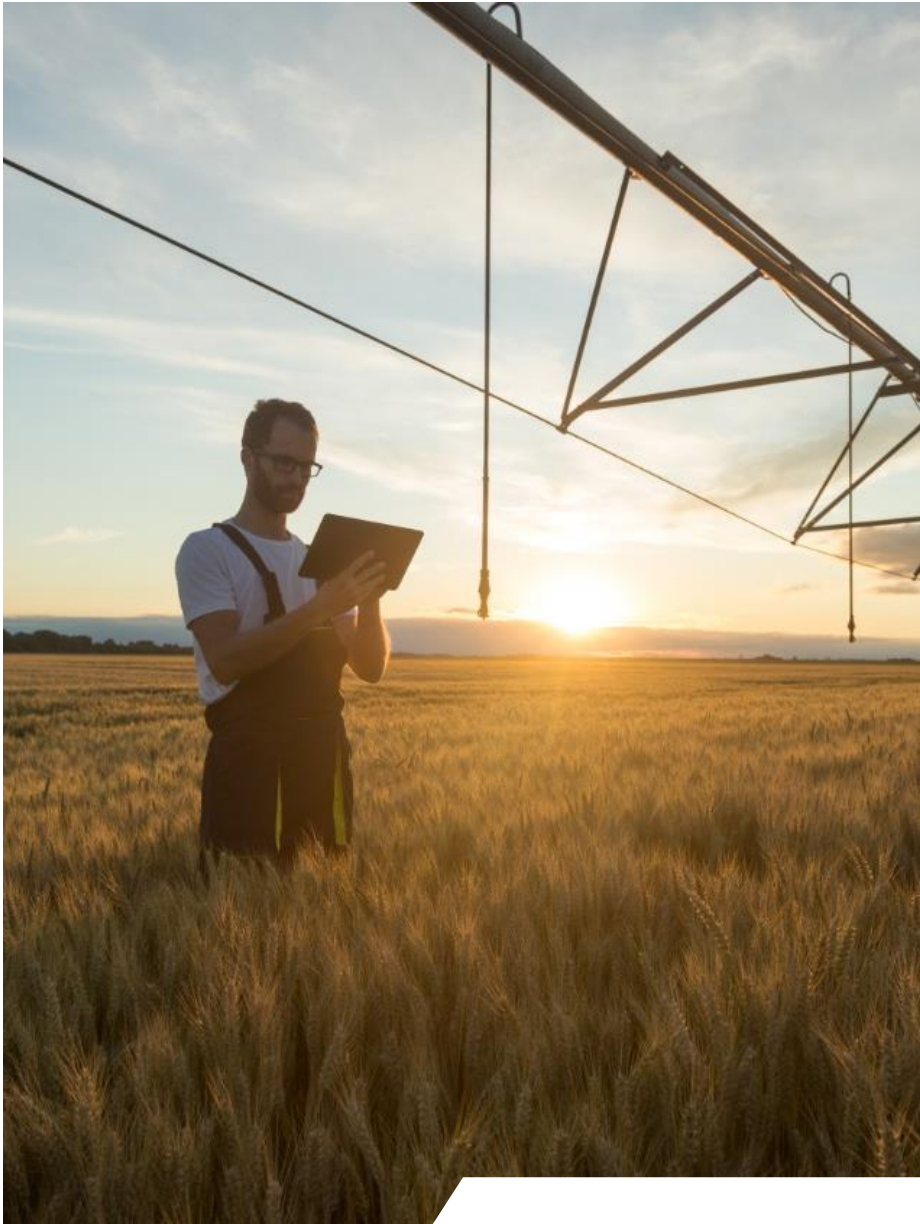
# China Accelerates Low-Carbon Transition with New Policies and Targets

China is entering a crucial phase on its path to achieving the carbon-peaking goal by 2030, setting priorities under the 15th Five-Year Plan (2026–2030). The country aims to reach its maximum level of greenhouse gas emissions no later than 2030, after which a steady decline will begin. China plans to gradually reduce coal and oil consumption, making their use cleaner and more efficient, while accelerating the development of major renewable energy bases—wind and solar in the northwest, hydropower in the southwest, offshore wind farms, and coastal nuclear projects. The plan also includes advancing new energy sources such as biogas, sustainable aviation fuel, and geothermal energy based on regional conditions. Oil consumption is expected to peak by 2026 and coal by 2027, after which the share of fossil fuels in the

energy mix will fall below 75% by 2030. New national commitments set ambitious targets for 2035: reducing net greenhouse gas emissions by 7–10% from peak levels, increasing the share of non-fossil fuels to over 30%, and expanding installed wind and solar capacity to more than six times the 2020 level.

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# ICVCM Approves Two Sustainable Agriculture Methodologies to Advance High-Integrity Carbon Credits

The Integrity Council for the Voluntary Carbon Market (ICVCM) has approved two sustainable agriculture methodologies under its Core Carbon Principles: CAR – U.S. Soil Enrichment Protocol v1.1 and Verra (VCS) – VM0042 Improved Agricultural Land Management v2.2. These methodologies promote practices such as reduced tillage, optimized fertilizer use, and improved irrigation to cut greenhouse gas emissions and boost soil carbon sequestration. CAR’s protocol has already issued around 1 million credits, with projects expected to generate over 1 million annually, while Verra’s updated version could unlock up to 126 million ERRs per year.

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# ISSB Advances Nature-Related Disclosure Standards with TNFD Support

The International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB) has welcomed the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD)'s decision to complete its current technical work by Q3 2026 and pause further guidance development. This move supports ISSB's plan to introduce incremental disclosure requirements on nature-related risks and opportunities, building on the TNFD framework. ISSB will consider options such as application guidance, amendments to existing standards, or a new standard, with public consultation to follow under IFRS Foundation's due process. The Exposure Draft is expected by October 2026, coinciding with COP17 of the Convention on Biological Diversity. By leveraging TNFD's recommendations and LEAP approach, ISSB aims to reduce fragmentation and deliver a global baseline for nature-related disclosures. Market participants are encouraged to continue using TNFD guidance to prepare for future ISSB requirements.

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# Innovation Fund Targets 221 Million Tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> Cuts by 2036



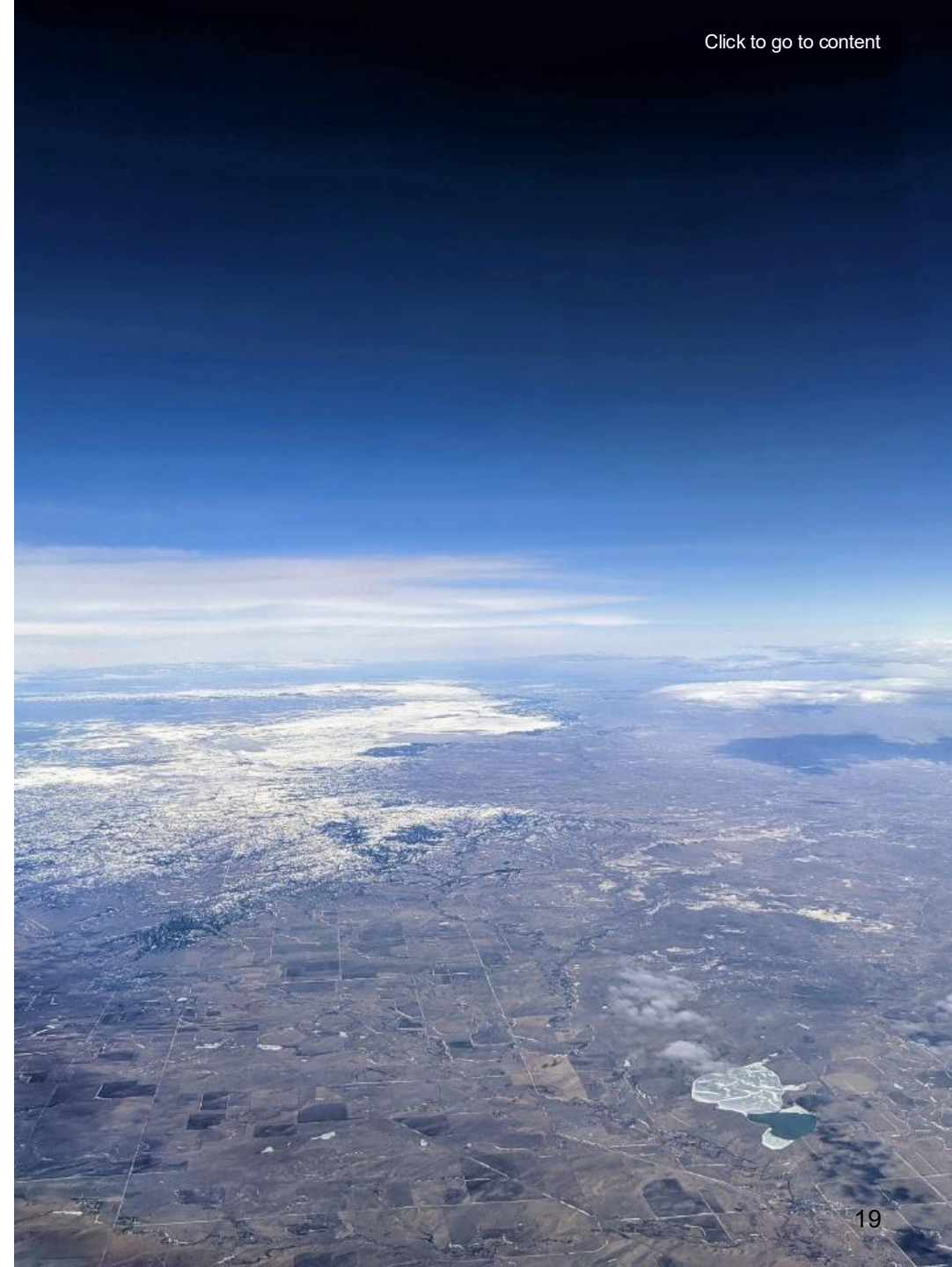
The European Commission has awarded EUR 2.9bn in Innovation Fund grants to 61 large-scale net-zero projects across 18 EU countries, marking one of its most significant investments in industrial decarbonization. Funded through EU ETS revenues, the projects span 19 sectors—from renewable energy and advanced batteries to carbon management—and are expected to cut 221 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent in their first decade, equal to emissions from nearly 10 million cars. Oversubscription of the call, with EUR 21.7bn in requests, highlights strong industry readiness for climate technologies. The initiative reinforces the EU’s 2050 climate neutrality target and positions Europe as a global leader in clean industrial innovation.

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# ESA Launches RECCAP-2 to Map Global Carbon and Methane Flows

The European Space Agency has initiated the RECCAP-2 Climate Space project to enhance understanding of global greenhouse gas emissions and absorption. The program integrates satellite data with atmospheric measurements across four critical regions: Europe, Siberia, the Amazon, and the Arctic. Its goal is to reduce uncertainties in CO<sub>2</sub> and methane calculations, especially in data-scarce areas, by producing annually updated carbon and methane flux maps. These maps will help countries assess the impact of droughts, fires, and deforestation, verify national inventories, and track progress toward Paris Agreement targets.

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## The release was prepared by:

Anzhelika Mukhamadiyeva, Karina Abysheva,  
Valentina Kalita, Arletta Isaeva



## PwC contacts:



### Natalya Lim

Strategy & Partner  
Eurasia Advisory Leader  
natalya.lim@pwc.com



### Botagoz Ibrayeva

Manager  
ESG Advisory Team  
botagoz.ibrayeva@pwc.com

Please send your questions and enquiries to:



### Anzhelika Mukhamadiyeva

Senior Associate  
ESG Advisory Team  
anzhelika.mukhamadiyeva@pwc.com

## PwC Offices in Eurasia

### Kazakhstan

#### Almaty

34, Al-Farabi Avenue

#### Astana

15/1, Kabanbay Batyr  
Avenue

#### Atyrau

55, Aiteke Bi Street  
Tel: +7 (727) 330 3200

### Azerbaijan

#### Baku

90A, Nizami Street  
Tel: +994 12 497 2515

### Mongolia

#### Ulaanbaatar

Sukhbaatar Square 2, SBD-8  
Tel: +976 7000 9089

### Uzbekistan

#### Tashkent

88A, Mustaqillik Avenue  
Tel: +998 (71) 120 6101

### Georgia

#### Tbilisi

12, Aleksidze Street  
Tel: +995 (32) 25080 50

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