



ESG Digest #45

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Regional

Kazakhstan Adopts National Strategy for Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use 2026-2035

Kazakhstan has adopted a national concept for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, aligned with the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. The concept outlines priorities for expanding protected areas and strengthening ecosystem restoration and biodiversity monitoring by 2035. It was developed with support from United Nations Development Programme and the Global Environment Facility. The initiative aims to enhance nature protection and support long-term sustainable development.

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Georgia and South Korea Sign Climate Cooperation Agreement



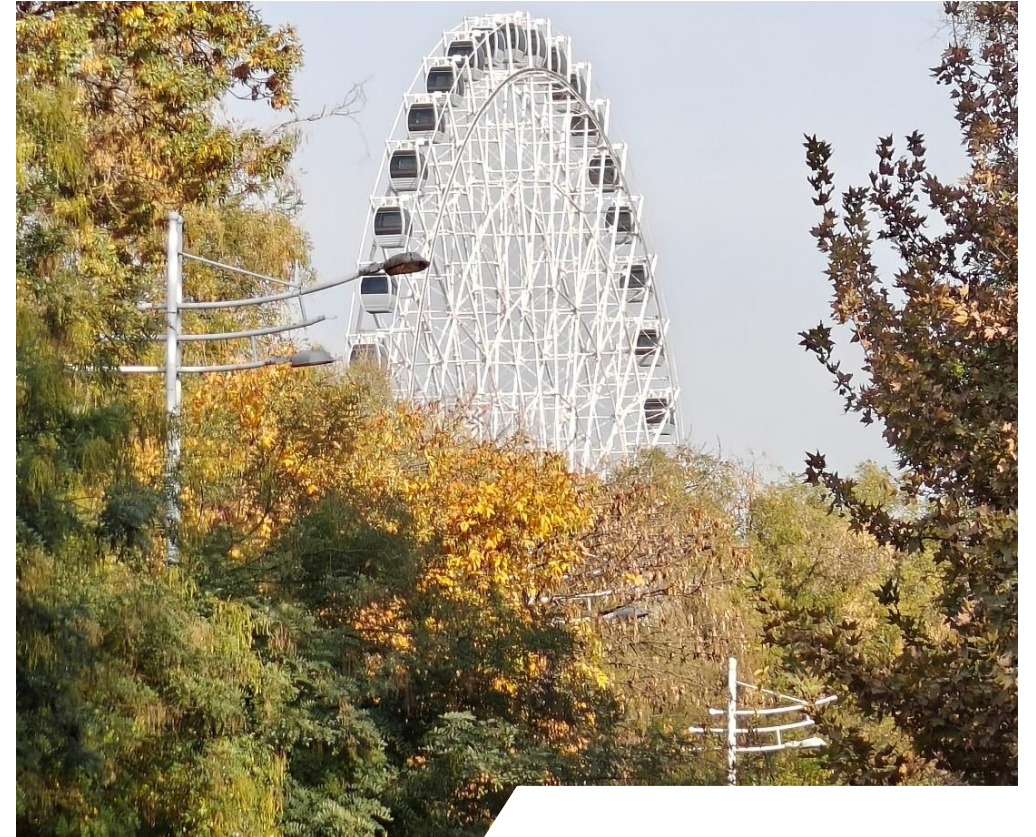
The governments of Georgia and South Korea have signed a climate cooperation agreement aimed at strengthening joint efforts on emissions reduction and climate adaptation. The partnership focuses on advancing the transition to a low-carbon economy and enhancing collaboration on climate policy and technologies. The agreement reflects growing international cooperation to accelerate climate action and support sustainable development.

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Uzbekistan Unveils National Environmental Projects for 2026–2030

Uzbekistan has presented a set of national environmental projects for 2026–2030, focusing on air quality, urban greening, and climate resilience. A key initiative, the “Clean Air” project, targets emission reductions, expansion of monitoring systems, and stricter requirements for industry, construction, and transport. The programme also includes large-scale afforestation, development of botanical and dendrological parks, and measures to combat desertification. The initiatives aim to strengthen environmental governance and support Uzbekistan’s transition toward a green economy.

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Uzbekistan Mobilizes USB 1bn in Green Investments to Mitigate the Impacts of the Aral Sea Crisis

Uzbekistan has launched the Aral Sea GRIP initiative to mobilize green investments for environmental recovery in Karakalpakstan. The project, implemented with Global Green Growth Institute and supported by Korea International Cooperation Agency, has already facilitated over USD 1bn in green and sustainable bonds. It focuses on climate-smart agriculture, support for vulnerable communities, and integration of ESG principles into financial institutions. The initiative aims to accelerate Uzbekistan's transition to a green economy and address the impacts of the Aral Sea crisis.

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Uzbekistan Strengthens “Uzbekistan–2030” Strategy with New Environmental Targets and Digital Monitoring

Uzbekistan has adopted a Presidential Decree to strengthen implementation of the “Uzbekistan–2030” Strategy through defined KPIs and a fully digital monitoring system. The strategy includes expanded environmental targets such as increasing urban greening, forest coverage, and protected areas, as well as reducing emissions and improving waste management.

It also introduces a performance tracking system classifying progress as “green,” “yellow,” or “red.” The initiative aims to enhance accountability and accelerate progress toward sustainability and climate goals.

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Global

China Adopts Comprehensive Environmental Code to Strengthen Climate Governance



China has adopted a comprehensive Environmental Code, consolidating over 30 laws and numerous regulations into a unified legal framework. The code was approved by the National People's Congress in March 2026 and will enter into force on August 15, 2026. It covers key areas including pollution control, ecosystem protection, green and low-carbon development, as well as climate adaptation measures. The code is expected to strengthen environmental governance and improve policy coherence.

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GRI Launches First Sector Standard for Mining Industry

The Global Reporting Initiative has introduced its first sector-specific standard for mining, GRI 14, effective from 2026. The standard sets unified disclosure requirements covering environmental, social, and economic impacts. It addresses key sector risks such as tailings management, biodiversity, and human rights. The initiative aims to improve comparability and transparency of ESG data across the mining sector.

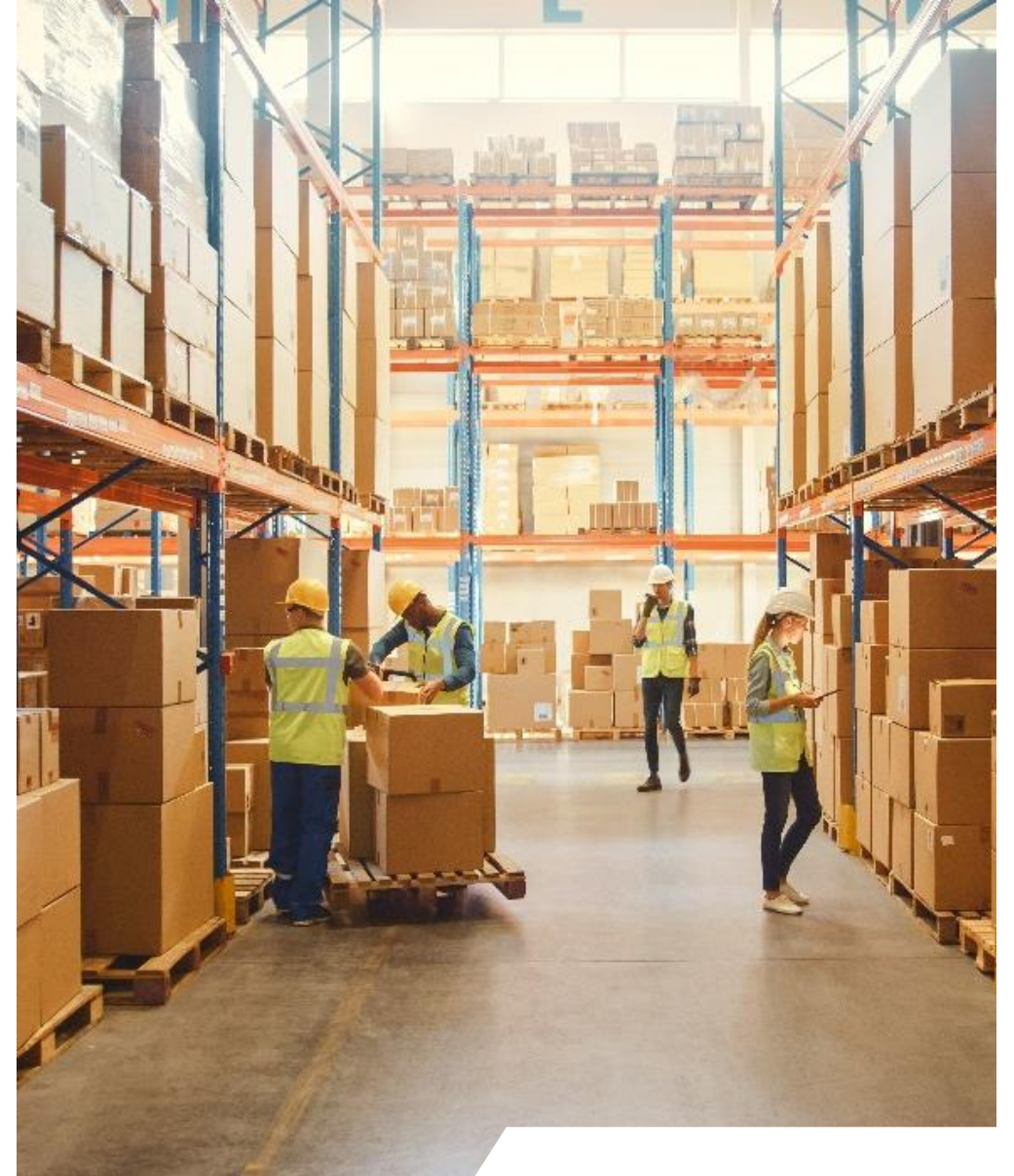
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EU Plans to Implement Digital Product Passport Requirements by 2027

The European Union will introduce Digital Product Passport requirements by 2027, mandating lifecycle data disclosure for most goods sold in the bloc. The rules, under the Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation, will impact global supply chains and product design. Companies exporting to the EU will need to ensure compliance or face market access risks. The initiative aims to enhance transparency, traceability, and sustainability across product lifecycles.

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European Commission Proposes Legislation to Accelerate Industrial Development and Support Clean Technologies

The European Commission has introduced the draft Industrial Acceleration Act (IAA), setting new requirements to scale clean technology manufacturing in the EU. The proposal includes “Made in EU” provisions and low-carbon procurement rules across key sectors such as renewables, batteries, and heat pumps.

It aims to strengthen industrial competitiveness and accelerate decarbonization. The initiative aligns with broader EU efforts to boost domestic clean tech and reduce reliance on external supply chains.

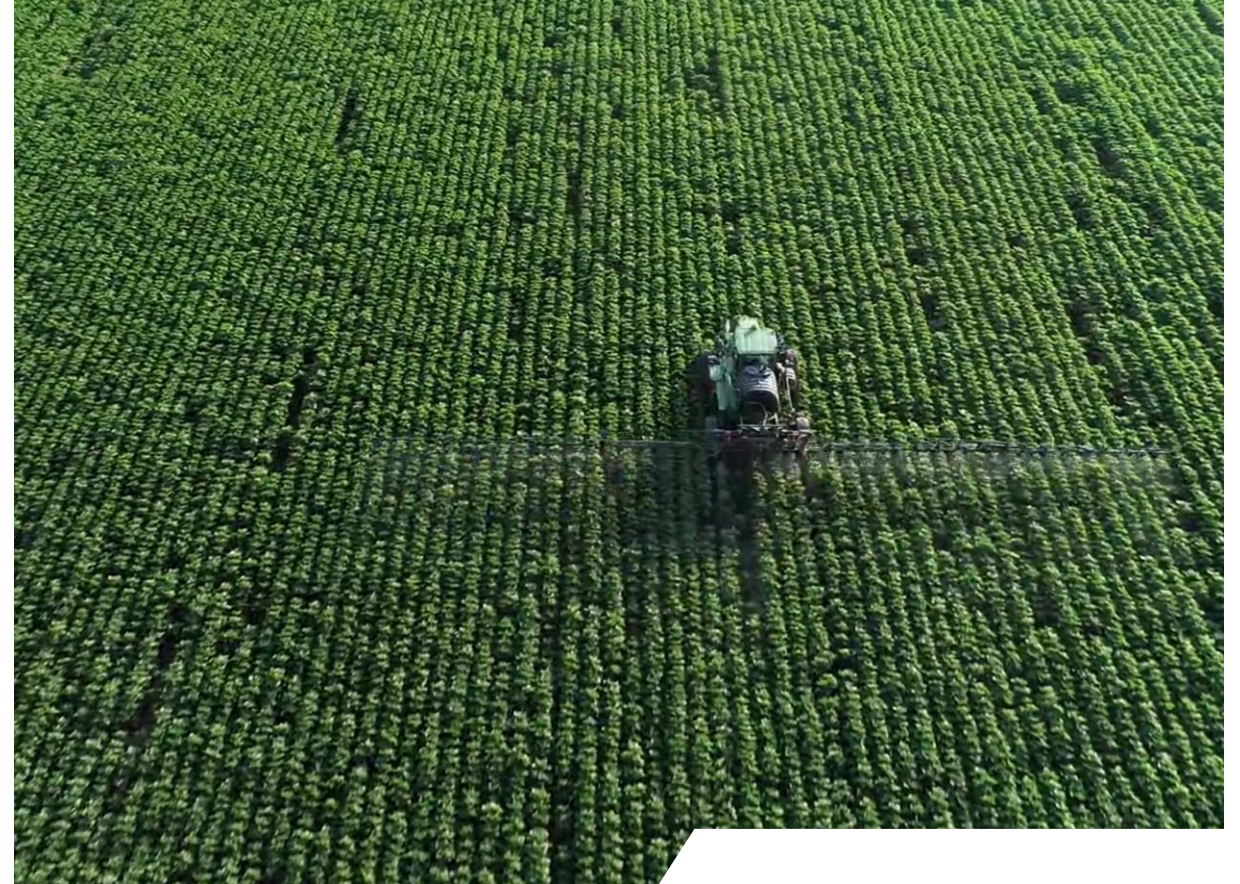
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SBTi Updates FLAG Guidance with Stricter Requirements on Deforestation

The Science Based Targets initiative has released version 1.2 of its FLAG guidance, introducing stricter requirements for companies addressing emissions from land use and agriculture. Companies submitting targets from 2026 must align deforestation commitments with the updated rules, even if earlier submissions predate the guidance. The update reflects growing pressure to tackle land-sector emissions with the same rigor as energy and industrial decarbonization, while closing gaps that have delayed action on deforestation.

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India Launches Carbon Market Portal to Enable Carbon Credit Trading



India has launched a national carbon market portal to support the Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS) and enable carbon credit trading. The platform, overseen by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency, will manage registration, monitoring, reporting, and verification of emissions. The scheme follows an intensity-based approach targeting energy-intensive sectors and is complemented by a voluntary offset mechanism. The initiative marks a key step toward scaling carbon markets and supporting India's climate targets.

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UK Raises USD 8.4bn in Green Bonds, Expands Eligibility to Nuclear Energy

The United Kingdom has raised USD 8.4bn through its latest green bond issuance under the Green Gilt programme. The updated framework now includes nuclear energy among eligible categories, alongside renewable energy, clean transport, and climate adaptation. The new 2037 maturity marks the first addition to the programme since its launch in 2021. The move signals a broader interpretation of “green” investments to support large-scale low-carbon infrastructure and energy transition goals.

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South Korea to Introduce Mandatory Sustainability Reporting from 2028

South Korea plans to introduce mandatory sustainability reporting starting in 2028, based on 2027 data. The roadmap, announced by the Financial Services Commission, will initially apply to large listed companies, with gradual expansion to smaller firms. The new requirements are aligned with International Sustainability Standards Board standards. The move aims to enhance transparency and align Korea's reporting framework with global ESG practices.

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Singapore Introduces Climate Transition Risk Rules for Financial Institutions

Singapore has introduced new guidelines requiring financial institutions to integrate climate transition risks into risk management practices. The rules, issued by the Monetary Authority of Singapore, apply to banks, insurers, and asset managers. Institutions must assess both physical and transition risks as part of forward-looking risk management. The move aims to strengthen climate risk governance and align with global regulatory trends.

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Kuwait Stock Exchange Updates ESG Disclosure Guidelines in Line with ISSB



The Boursa Kuwait has released updated ESG disclosure guidelines reflecting evolving international and national reporting requirements. The guidance incorporates International Sustainability Standards Board standards, including IFRS S1 and IFRS S2, and introduces expanded expectations on climate risks, transition plans, and Scope 3 emissions. It also reflects new regulatory requirements mandating sustainability reporting for premium-listed companies starting from 2026. The update aims to enhance data comparability, transparency, and the integration of ESG factors into corporate governance and investment decision-making.

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GBCA Releases Nature Roadmap to Transform Australia's Built Environment

The Green Building Council of Australia has published a nature roadmap aimed at shifting the built environment from minimizing harm to actively restoring biodiversity. The framework translates the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework into practical guidance for projects and highlights key challenges such as fragmented policies, resource-intensive construction, and underinvestment in nature. It also sets out core principles, including avoiding biodiversity loss, restoring ecosystems, increasing circularity, using low-impact materials, and scaling up investment in nature.

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The release was prepared by:

Anzhelika Mukhamadiyeva, 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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