



ESG Digest #46

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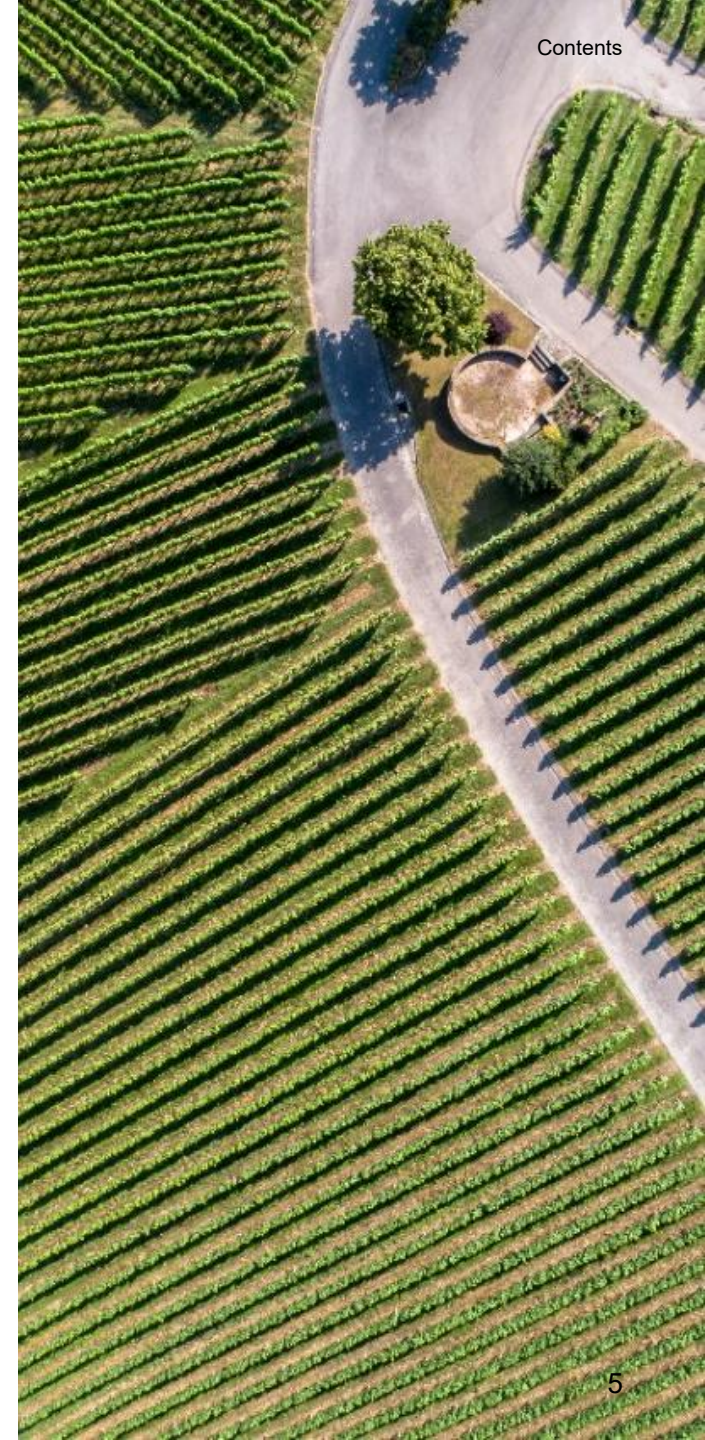


Regional

Kazakhstan Hosts Regional Environmental Summit 2026

Kazakhstan hosted the Regional Ecological Summit (RES 2026) in Astana on April 22–24, bringing together around 1,500 participants from governments, international organizations, and the private sector. The summit resulted in the adoption of a Joint Declaration on environmental cooperation in Central Asia, along with the launch of a Regional Action Program for 2026–2030, developed in partnership with the United Nations to support coordinated climate and environmental initiatives. In parallel, 17 international agreements and memoranda worth over USD 2.3bn were signed, covering renewable energy, low-carbon technologies, waste management, sustainable industry, and climate finance. Key deals included renewable energy projects (including up to 2 GW capacity), waste-to-energy plants, sustainable aviation fuel initiatives, and early-stage development of carbon markets and forest-climate programs. Overall, RES 2026 marked a shift from dialogue to implementation, positioning Central Asia as an emerging platform for coordinated climate policy, green investment, and ESG-aligned projects.

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Kazakhstan Reports Power Surplus as Generation Expands

Kazakhstan recorded a slight electricity surplus in Q1 2026, with generation reaching 33.7bn kWh against demand of 33.6bn kWh. The government plans to add 2.6 GW of new capacity in 2026, including gas-fired plants, wind farms, and solar projects. These developments are expected to eliminate energy shortages by early 2027 and support a stable surplus by 2029. Additional projects include new CHP plants and renewable energy installations across several regions. A nuclear power plant exceeding 2 GW is also planned for the mid-2030s.

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Kyrgyz Republic Passes Draft Law 'On Climate Action' in First Reading

The Kyrgyz Republic has passed its draft law “On Climate Activity” in the first reading, establishing a comprehensive framework for climate policy. The legislation introduces emissions accounting, a national registry, quotas, and the potential launch of a carbon market. It also sets up an MRV system, requiring businesses to monitor, report, and verify emissions data. Alongside decarbonization, the law prioritizes adaptation in water, agriculture, and infrastructure. The framework aligns with the Paris Agreement and aims to unlock climate finance and ESG investments.

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Uzbekistan Secures USD 6bn Deal to Build Sustainable Aviation Fuel Hub

Uzbekistan has signed a USD 6.08bn agreement to develop a large-scale sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) hub in the Khorezm region. The project, led by Allied Biofuels FE LLC in partnership with local authorities, aims to produce SAF, e-fuels, and green diesel at industrial scale. With a planned capacity of 160,000 tonnes, it is one of the most ambitious clean fuel projects in Central Asia. The facility will be powered by renewable energy, supporting low-carbon fuel production.

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Eurasian Development Bank Expands USD 2bn Green Portfolio in Central Asia



The Eurasian Development Bank has built a USD 2bn green investment portfolio in Central Asia and plans further expansion. The bank has significantly scaled its climate financing, with its green portfolio tripling over the past seven years. Around half of investments are directed toward renewable energy, with over 1.2 GW of capacity supported since 2015. Key initiatives include the regional water-energy program and a joint irrigation project with the United Nations Development Programme.

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Global

EBA Proposes Simplified ESG Reporting Framework for Banks

The European Banking Authority has proposed major updates to simplify ESG supervisory reporting for banks. The changes aim to streamline disclosure requirements and introduce proportionality measures, reducing the burden on smaller institutions. Key proposals include removing several EU taxonomy-related templates, while keeping key metrics such as BTAR under Pillar 3 reporting. The initiative is part of broader efforts to balance regulatory oversight with reporting efficiency.

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EU Finalizes Cross-Border Carbon Pricing Mechanism Ahead of 2027 Rollout

The European Commission has set the CBAM certificate price at EUR 75.36 per tonne of CO₂ for Q1 2026. The Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism will apply carbon pricing to imports of key goods such as cement, steel, aluminum, electricity, and hydrogen. Importers will be required to purchase certificates from February 2027, with weekly pricing to be published thereafter. The EU estimates CBAM could generate over EUR 2.1bn annually by 2030, supporting industrial decarbonization. Meanwhile, the United Kingdom is consulting on its own CBAM framework ahead of a planned 2027 launch.

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GHG Protocol Proposes Major Updates to Scope 3 Emissions Standard

The GHG Protocol has released proposed updates to its Scope 3 emissions reporting standard. Key changes include a requirement for companies to disclose at least 95% of relevant Scope 3 emissions. The proposal also introduces a new “Category 16” to capture additional value chain activities, such as emissions linked to regulatory support and licensing. The update aims to strengthen transparency and consistency in value chain emissions reporting. The current Scope 3 standard, first introduced in 2011, includes 15 categories of emissions.

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ISO Releases Updated ISO 14001:2026 Environmental Management Standard

The International Organization for Standardization has released ISO 14001:2026, the updated version of its flagship environmental management standard. The revision aims to help organizations strengthen environmental performance, reduce impacts, and ensure regulatory compliance. The update reflects growing pressure on companies to demonstrate measurable sustainability progress rather than set targets alone. It also aligns more closely with key priorities such as climate change, biodiversity, and resource efficiency.

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World Bank Targets Water Security for 1 Billion People by 2030



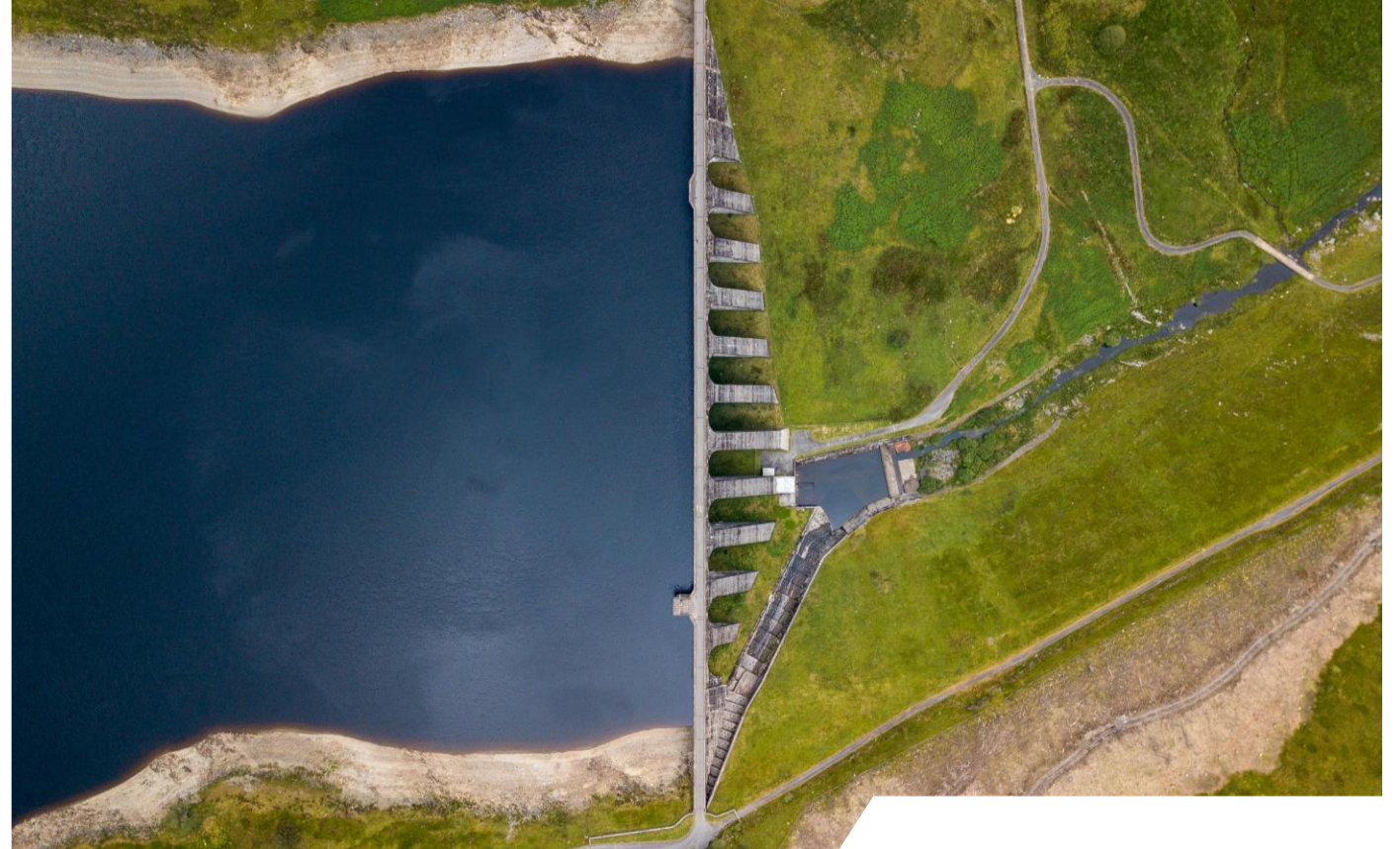
The World Bank has launched a new initiative to improve water security for one billion people by 2030. The program, known as Water Forward, aims to scale investments and coordination to expand access to safe water, sanitation, and climate-resilient systems. Around 400 million people are expected to benefit directly from World Bank-supported programs, with additional funding targeting a further 600 million. The initiative comes as nearly 700 million people still lack basic access to clean.

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UK Publishes Government-Backed Standards for Biodiversity and Nutrient Credits

The British Standards Institution has released two new standards to support the UK's growing nature markets. Backed by the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, the standards aim to increase confidence among investors and buyers. BSI Flex 702 v2.0 covers biodiversity credits, while BSI Flex 704 v2.0 focuses on nutrient mitigation. Both are designed for broad use across project developers, investors, intermediaries, and buyers in environmental markets.

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Switzerland Proposes New ESG Reporting and Due Diligence Rules

Switzerland has proposed new legislation to update corporate sustainability reporting and strengthen supply chain due diligence. The draft aims to align national rules with EU frameworks, including ESG reporting and due diligence directives. Mandatory reporting will apply to large companies with over 1,000 employees and CHF 450mln in revenue, reducing the number of firms in scope. Disclosures will need to follow European Sustainability Reporting Standards or equivalent international standards. Additional due diligence requirements will apply to the largest companies, covering human rights and environmental impacts across value chains.

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India Unveils 2035 Climate Goals Amid Concerns Over Rising Emissions

India has announced new 2035 climate targets, including a 47% reduction in emissions intensity and 60% non-fossil fuel power capacity. The government says the goals align with its net-zero target by 2070. However, critics argue the targets lack ambition and clarity. Analysts warn that using emissions intensity instead of absolute reductions may allow total emissions to keep rising with economic growth. India remains one of the world's largest greenhouse gas emitters.

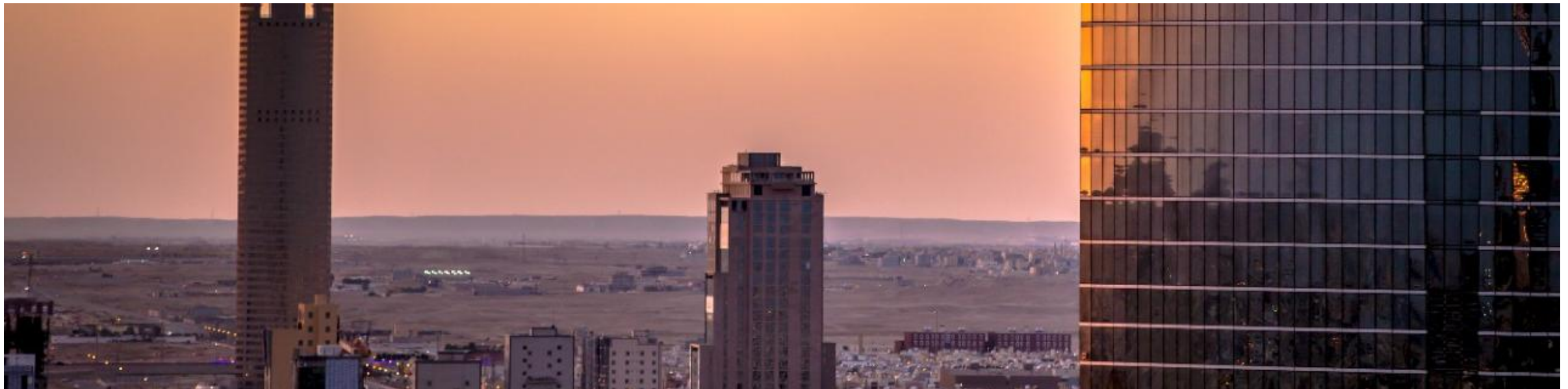
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Saudi Arabia Restores 1 Million Hectares of Degraded Land

Saudi Arabia has restored 1 million hectares of degraded land, marking one of the world's most ambitious land restoration efforts. The initiative is part of the Saudi Green Initiative, launched in response to rising land degradation and drought risks. Despite harsh climatic conditions, the program combines long-term planning with adaptive technologies. Measures include cloud seeding, early warning systems for sandstorms, and expansion of protected areas to support ecosystem stability and biodiversity.

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Indonesia Expands Biofuel Strategy with B50 Mandate and Aviation Blending Plans

Indonesia will require all diesel consumers to use B50 biodiesel by 2028, accelerating its energy transition strategy. The mandate supports national goals to reduce fuel imports, strengthen energy security, and expand domestic biofuel production. The policy centers on palm oil-based biodiesel as a key energy source. Indonesia is also introducing ethanol blending requirements for sustainable aviation fuel, positioning itself as a regional leader in biofuel adoption.

[Подробнее](#)

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