



ICRA

ICRA's CLIMATE SERIES Green Bond Framework

Step in right direction for climate
goals; close monitoring needed to
ensure smooth and timely funding
January 2023

CLIMATE CHANGE

The biggest crisis of our time

Unlike developed nations that had started their climate infrastructure early in the last decade, India is a late entrant with plans to issue Sovereign Green Bonds in Q4 FY2023.

The Government needs to closely monitor the progress to address potential delays in implementation and ensure timely execution to achieve climate goals.



The issuance of Sovereign Green Bonds will help the Government of India (GoI) in tapping the requisite finance from potential investors. The proceeds from the bond will be used for deployment in public sector projects aimed at reducing the carbon intensity.



Ministry of Finance (MoF) plans to form a committee, which will meet at least twice a year, to select projects and ensure that funds are allocated within 24 months from the date of issuance, according to the framework.



MoF to focus on sectors, which have the highest carbon emissions i.e. power, transport and industry. This is visible from the selection of eligible projects for Green Bonds, which include projects from renewable energy, projects for electrification of transport and supporting infrastructure, projects for pollution control and prevention etc.



The Government is expected to issue small tranches of Green Bonds in Q4 FY2023 to test the appetite, the first such tranche is expected at ~Rs. 0.16 trillion. These bonds are expected to form ~1-2% of the total Indian bond market for the current fiscal and are likely to go up to 2-3% for the next financial year.



Developing nations are late entrants to the Sovereign Green Bond market with issuances in the last two years. China, which started issuing Sovereign Green Bonds from 2021, now holds ~15% of the yearly global issuances. However, other countries like Thailand and Indonesia have a negligible share. India, which may issue Sovereign Green Bonds in Q4FY23, may have ~3-5% share in yearly global issuances in near to medium term.



Sovereign Green Bonds may have a longer tenure and lower coupon rate than corporate Green Bonds, similar to the trend seen in China.



Though the Government has taken steps in the right direction with issuing framework, there are some concerns, which need to be addressed while selecting projects. Close monitoring will be needed to ensure smooth and timely funding considering timeframe of one year for issuances.



Objective

The issuance of Sovereign Green Bonds will help the Government of India (GoI) in tapping the requisite finance from potential investors. The proceeds from the bond will be used for deployment in public sector projects aimed at reducing the carbon intensity.



Core components of framework

The framework is designed to comply with four components and key recommendations of the International Capital Market Association

- Use of proceeds;
- Project evaluation and selection;
- Management of proceeds; and
- Reporting

- Ministry of Finance (MoF) has constituted a Green Finance Working Committee (GFWC) to validate key decisions on issuance of Sovereign Green Bonds.
- The Committee has representation from relevant line ministries and is chaired by the Chief Economic Adviser of the GoI.
- The Committee plans to meet at least twice a year to select projects and ensure that funds are allocated within 24 months from the date of issuance, according to the framework.



ICRA

Analytical Contact Details



Aditi Nayar

*Chief Economist,
Head- Research & Outreach*



aditin@icraindia.com

Madhura Nejjur

Assistant Vice-President

Madhura.nejjur@icraindia.com



0124 4545 385

+91 22 6114 3417





ICRA

Business Development/Media Contact Details



L. Shivakumar

Executive Vice-President

Jayanta Chatterjee

Executive Vice-President

Naznin Prodhani

Head Media & Communications



shivakumar@icraindia.com

jayantac@icraindia.com

communications@icraindia.com



022- 6114 3406

080 – 4332 6401

0124 – 4545 860





© Copyright, 2022 ICRA Limited. All Rights Reserved.

All information contained herein has been obtained by ICRA from sources believed by it to be accurate and reliable. Although reasonable care has been taken to ensure that the information herein is true, such information is provided 'as is' without any warranty of any kind, and ICRA in particular, makes no representation or warranty, express or implied, as to the accuracy, timeliness or completeness of any such information. Also, ICRA or any of its group companies, while publishing or otherwise disseminating other reports may have presented data, analyses and/or opinions that may be inconsistent with the data, analyses and/or opinions in this publication. All information contained herein must be construed solely as statements of opinion, and ICRA shall not be liable for any losses incurred by users from any use of this publication or its contents.



ICRA

Thank You!