Sustainable Finance and Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Advisory
Innovative Sustainable Financing Solutions for Emerging Markets
Finance is Key for Sustainable Growth

We help our clients to

- Understand global and local sustainability issues, risks and solutions
- Direct finance towards environmental and sustainable priorities
- Develop sustainable financial markets
- Facilitate sustainable financial solutions
- Promote integrity of the market and foster better practices
- Promote sustainable investment

For more information: www.worldbank.org/sustainablefinanceadvisory
Why Choose the World Bank?

- The World Bank issued the first green bond in 2008
- Created the model for today’s labeled bond market and set the blueprint for sustainability across capital markets
- Raised over US$13 billion through 158 green bond transactions in 21 currencies
- Issued record-breaking US$8 billion sustainability development bond for health and COVID-19 response in member countries
- Processes used by the World Bank are recognized as international best practice
- Works with multilaterals and markets actors to set standards and guidelines for issuers and investors to promote the integrity of the market
- Created the “green sukuk” and blue bond products
- Facilitated groundbreaking emerging market sustainable finance transactions
Labeled Bonds

Green, blue, social and sustainable bonds (i) raise money for investments that deliver sustainable economic and social outcomes and (ii) offer investors the opportunity to earn competitive financial returns and diversify their portfolios while supporting positive impact.

Green and Blue Bonds
Green and blue bonds raise financing for development with clear environmental benefits on land and at sea, e.g., power generation from renewables, infrastructure that increases energy efficiency, and sustainable fishing economies.

Social Bonds
Social bonds support the financing of the projects that benefit under-served populations with limited access to essential services such as basic infrastructure or finance.

Sustainability Bonds
Sustainability bonds support the financing of a green and social projects.
Why Issue Labeled Bonds?

Labeled bonds can help issuers expand and diversify their investor base. These bonds are in huge demand from investors that place sustainability at the center of their investment approach, i.e., invest specifically with the intention of generating positive, measurable social and environmental impact alongside a financial return. These investors include fund managers, pension funds and insurance companies, family offices, banks, financial institutions, religious institutions, as well as individual investors. The Global Impact Investing Network (GIIN) estimates the size of the impact investing market to be more than US$1 trillion.

Asset owners such as pension funds are also recognizing that ESG issues can influence investment risk and return. They are increasingly integrating these considerations into their investment analysis. Often green, social and sustainability bond issuers receive higher ESG scores from these investors. Investors may use these bonds to hedge relevant risks in their portfolio.
Build Sustainable Financial Markets

Technical assistance for regulators and policymakers

- Help financial regulators understand the financial impact of sustainability challenges such as climate change, environmental degradation, loss of biodiversity, pandemics, social issues, etc.
- Help develop regulations, guidelines and incentives to catalyze the development of sustainable capital markets
- Promote the issuance of labeled bonds
- Build the capacity of local certifiers
- Develop green taxonomies to provide clarity to issuers
- Develop capacity of issuers to report on ESG risks
- Build the capacity of institutional investors to set up ESG and impact investing strategies and frameworks
Promote Sustainable Solutions

Technical assistance for issuers of Financial Solutions

**Pre-Issuance**
- Share international best practices and requirements
- Develop action plan/roadmap
- Develop the framework
- Identify eligible categories/projects based on national priorities
- Facilitate the delivery of second opinions/verifications/certification
- Advise on reporting commitment and communication strategy

**Post-Issuance**
- Clarify processes and help issuers understand how to use the standardized impact reporting template in line with global standards
- Explain information required, including baselines and indicators to measure the impact of selected green projects
- Recommend work process flows and timeline for reporting in line with the green bond framework
- Prepare terms of reference for an auditor to provide the annual assurance report
- Review and provide feedback on drafts
Advance Best Practices

Technical assistance for certifiers or second opinion providers

- Deliver training to domestic environmental, climate-related and sustainability research institutions or consultancies
- Share trends and perspectives on climate science, physical and transition climate risks, financial risks and scenarios
- Explain different forms of external review, and examine different approaches and methodologies, respective benefits and disadvantages, potential conflicts of interest, dissemination, and costs
- Clarify second opinion structure, content, required documents and information/data, and assessment process
- Review and provide feedback on methodologies
Promote Sustainable Investment

Technical assistance for institutional investors

- Deliver training and capacity building on ESG and responsible investment (RI) trends, approaches and strategies and identify institutional investors interested in integrating ESG in investment processes.

- Support the targeted investors by
  - reviewing identified institutional investor’s investment objectives, policies and strategies and deliver an overview report identifying gaps.
  - providing recommendations for the integration of ESG in investment processes, including:
    - criterion for developing an ESG/RI policy and implications for investment processes
    - organizational setup, governance and operational processes
    - choosing ESG approaches to support investment objectives and mission alignment
    - stewardship, responsible ownership and engagement
    - reporting and disclosure
Malaysia

In July 2017, Tadau Energy Sdn Bhd issued the world’s first green sukuk to raise MYR 250 million (US$59 million) to finance a 50MW solar power plant in Malaysia.

Large institutional investors incorporated ESG in their strategic asset allocation.

Local rating agencies established a methodology for green sukuk rating.

Republic of Indonesia issued a sovereign green bond (US$1.25 billion, February 2018).

Photo Credit: © WangAnQi/iStockphoto
Malaysia
First green sukuk in the world

Green sukuk (Islamic bond) is a new climate finance instrument that has the potential to channel the US$2 trillion Islamic finance market toward funding of green and sustainable investment projects.

World Bank Support

- Identified opportunity to leverage Malaysia’s role in Islamic finance to combine the “sukuk” and the green bond
- Undertook diagnostic assessment for feasibility
- Led awareness campaign with line ministries; financial intermediaries; banks; institutional investors; rating agencies; and potential issuers
- Provided capacity building for local green bond/sukuk certifiers
- Provided technical assistance to issuers for sukuk transactions
- Supported the development of ASEAN Green and Sustainable Bond Standards

In November 2017, Fiji issued a sovereign green bond. The bond raised FJD 100 million, approximately USD (eq.) 50 million, to fund climate change adaptation and mitigation projects. As COP 23 President, Fiji used the bond to bring global awareness to challenges of small island nations to the impacts of climate change.
Fiji
First emerging market sovereign green bond in the world

World Bank Support

- Provided technical assistance to structure the bond from start to finish within a tight time frame
- Convened and facilitated a steering committee comprising senior government decision makers with clear lines of authority on preparing the green bond policy framework, prospectus, eligible expenditure definitions, and ongoing monitoring and reporting
- Developed the green bond framework, hired the external review provider, and helped Fiji navigate the independent review process
- Identified eligible projects, focused mainly on building resilience against the impacts of climate change
- Helped raise the visibility of the bond in the global platform through a sustained communication strategy
- Provided technical assistance to develop the post-issuance green bond impact reports
Indonesia

Developing a domestic green bond market

World Bank Support

- Delivered workshops to raise awareness of sustainability issues, standards, policies and implementation requirements
- Participated in technical meetings with Ministry of Finance, financial intermediaries, banks, institutional investors, rating agencies, and potential issuers
- Supported the development of Indonesia green bond regulations
- Provided guidance to Ministry of Finance for the issuance of first sovereign green sukuk in the world; supported knowledge-sharing activities, and provided technical assistance to develop the post-issuance impact report
- Facilitated the issuance of the first domestic green bond in Indonesia by PT SMI
  - developed transaction road map and green bond framework
  - helped identify eligible projects
  - provided guidance on reporting and impact indicators
  - facilitated independent external review
  - developed post-issuance impact report

In October 2018, the Seychelles government launched the world’s first sovereign blue bond. The proceeds will be used to help finance the island nation’s transition to sustainable fisheries and the protection of marine areas.

The World Bank structured a new blue bond market instrument to help the Seychelles government mobilize private sector capital into sustainable fishing, marine spatial planning, aquaculture, and biodiversity.
Sustainable Finance and Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Advisory

First blue bond in the world

Seychelles

World Bank Support

- Structured a blue bond with a custom ten-year maturity schedule that aligned with project funding needs and Seychelles’ liability profile
- Integrated a World Bank partial credit guarantee of US$5 million into the blue bond, which lowered Seychelles’ borrowing cost by at least 2 percent per year
- Helped arrange US$5 million in concessional financing from the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), which further lowered Seychelles’ net borrowing cost by over 3 percent per year
- Secured a donation from Rockefeller Foundation to cover most of the transaction costs
- Engaged with investment banks to find a top tier placement agent and a trustee for the blue bond issuance and brought in banks to help manage the process and payments
- Connected Seychelles with investors who purchased the blue bond issue

Intellectual Leadership

The World Bank leads and shapes the debate on sustainable finance with market actors by developing guides and guidelines:

- Green Bonds Proceeds Management and Reporting Guide
- Developing a National Green Taxonomy: A World Bank Guide
- Engaging on ESG Issues with Investors: A Guide for Sovereign Debt Issuers
- Incorporating Environmental, Social and Governance Factors into Fixed Income Investment: Report
- Sovereign, Green, Social and Sustainability Bonds: Unlocking the Potential for Emerging Markets and Developing Economies
Knowledge Sharing

The World Bank provides a platform for interested parties to advance the dialog on sustainable finance by organizing roundtable discussions, seminars, conferences and workshops.

- Roundtable discussions to promote dialogue on ESG between investors and issuers
- High level workshops and seminars to share knowledge about the value and process for issuing green and sustainable bonds
- High level workshops and seminars to share lessons learnt from the issuance of sustainable bonds
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