

MIZUHO FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. GREEN BOND

FRAMEWORK OVERVIEW AND SECOND OPINION BY SUSTAINALYTICS

September 25, 2017



www.sustainalytics.com

Trisha Taneja (Toronto)

Associate, Advisory Services

trisha.taneja@sustainalytics.com

(+1) 647 317 3695

Wakako Mizuta (Tokyo)

Associate, Advisory Services

wakako.mizuta@sustainalytics.com

(+81) 3 4589 4886

James Hawrylak (Tokyo)

Director, Institutional Relations

james.hawrylak@sustainalytics.com

(+81) 3 4589 4886

Table of Contents

1. Introduction	3
2. Overview of Issuer	3
3. Framework overview	4
3.1 Use of Proceeds Eligibility Criteria	4
3.2 Project Evaluation and Selection Process	5
3.3 Management of Proceeds	6
3.4 Reporting	6
4. Sustainalytics' Opinion	7
Section 1: Sustainalytics' Opinion on the Green Bond Framework	7
Section 2: Sustainability Performance of the Issuer	9
Section 3: Impact of Use of Proceeds	10
Conclusion	11
APPENDICES	12
Appendix 1: Sustainalytics assessment of the strength of the Equator Principles	12
Appendix 2: Green Bond/Green Bond Programme External Review Form	13
SUSTAINALYTICS	20

1. INTRODUCTION

Mizuho Financial Group, Inc. (Mizuho FG) has developed a green bond framework (“Mizuho Green Bond Framework”) under which it intends issue multiple green bonds and use the proceeds to finance projects related to the three categories: 1) Renewable Energy, 2) Clean Transportation, and 3) Pollution Prevention and Control. Mizuho FG has engaged Sustainalytics to provide a second-party opinion on its framework and the framework’s environmental credentials.

As part of this engagement, Sustainalytics held conversations with various members of Mizuho FG’s management team to understand the sustainability impact of their business processes and planned use of proceeds, as well as management of proceeds and reporting aspects of the Mizuho Green Bond Framework. Sustainalytics also reviewed relevant public documents and non-public information.

This document contains two sections: Framework Overview- a summary of the Mizuho Green Bond Framework; and Sustainalytics’ Opinion- an opinion on the framework.

2. OVERVIEW OF ISSUER

Mizuho FG is a Japanese bank holding company that is the ultimate parent of the Mizuho Group, one of the largest financial groups in the world. The Group provides a broad range of financial services in domestic and overseas markets.

As a global financial group, Mizuho FG contributes to the sustainable development of society by undertaking a number of environmental initiatives. These include, but are not limited to addressing climate change issues, building a low-carbon society and preserving biodiversity.

The scope of Mizuho FG's environmental activities can be split into three categories.¹ The first is finance — providing funds to companies that will undertake environment-friendliness and businesses that will contribute to a reduction in the environmental burden. The second is consulting, surveys and research, centered around Mizuho Information & Research Institute, Inc., Mizuho FG’s think tank subsidiary. The third is the product development and sales of environment-friendly investment products.

Mizuho FG states its belief that part of a financial institution's social responsibility is to provide financial support for environmentally beneficial activities. For example, Mizuho FG finances renewable energy projects (solar power, geothermal, and wind power generation, etc.) by leveraging its accumulated knowledge/expertise in project finance.

In order to accelerate its environmental initiatives, Mizuho FG is planning to issue a green bond to finance lending to environment-related projects. While the issuing entity will be Mizuho FG, the entity that will manage lending to Eligible Green Projects will be Mizuho Bank, Ltd. (Mizuho BK). All of the existing and new projects to be financed through proceeds of the green bond must be eligible under the Use of Proceeds criteria outlined in the Framework Overview section below.

¹ <https://www.mizuho-fg.com/csr/environment/business/index.html>

3. FRAMEWORK OVERVIEW

An amount equal to the net proceeds from any sale of green bond will be used to fund existing and new qualifying environment-related projects (“Eligible Green Projects”), in whole or in part, as defined by the eligibility criteria below, and by the Mizuho FG’s internal investment criteria.

3.1 Use of Proceeds

Eligibility Criteria

Eligible Green Projects will meet ALL of the conditions below:

- (i) A project meets one or more of the eligible project categories (a) to (c) below,
- (ii) A project is categorized as Category B or Category C projects in accordance with the Equator Principles, and
- (iii) A loan for a project has been financed by Mizuho BK within 24 months as of issue date of a relevant green bond, or will be newly financed on or after the issue date.

As per the Equator Principles², Category A projects have potentially significant adverse environmental and social risks and/or impacts that are diverse, irreversible or unprecedented. Category B projects have potential limited adverse environmental and social risks and/or impacts that are few in number, generally site specific, largely reversible and readily addressed through mitigation measures. Category C projects have minimal or no adverse environmental and social risks and/or impacts.

Eligible Project Categories

Eligible Green Projects will include projects meeting one or more of the categories below.

(a) RENEWABLE ENERGY

The development, construction and operation of renewable energy facilities which generate wind, solar, solar thermal, biomass (except sustainable feedstock and viable forest based biomass), geothermal energy, and small hydro facilities with generation capacity of 25 megawatts or less.

(b) CLEAN TRANSPORTATION

Projects to develop, operate and upgrade public transportation facilities, infrastructure and technologies including expansion and improvements to rail transport, non-motorised transport (such as bicycles), manufacturing of electric vehicles, and multi-modal transport.

(c) POLLUTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL

The development, construction and operation of pollution prevention and control facilities, such as waste recycling and waste-to-energy power plants.

² The Equator Principles: <http://www.equator-principles.com/>

3.2 Project Evaluation and Selection Process

Application of Eligibility Criteria in Project Selection

Eligible Green Projects are identified and selected to align with the eligibility criteria described above via a process that involves participants from various functional areas including Mizuho FG's Global Products Coordination Department and Corporate Communications Department. The selection process of Eligible Green Projects, is based on the list of project finances offered by Mizuho BK. Mizuho FG's Global Products Coordination Department drafts the list of Eligible Green Projects - candidate projects that are suited to any of Project Categories (a) to (c) mentioned above, and that meet condition iii) above will be proposed. Finally, the Corporate Communications Department will select Eligible Green Projects from the candidate projects list and confirm that these projects fall into Category B or C based on the Equator Principles.

Environmental Objectives

Mizuho FG's environmental policy³ specially addresses tackling climate change issues, building a low-carbon society, promoting a sound material-cycle society, and preserving biodiversity, among other issues. In addition to the environmental policy, the key environmental initiatives⁴ are laid out in 6 pillars: 1) the development of financial products and services that encourage society to promote environmental consideration, 2) compliance with environmental laws and regulations, 3) the reduction of using resources and energy as well as the management of waste disposal in its business activities, 4) the support for environmental initiatives to its customers and environmental protection groups, 5) the support to increase environmental awareness, 6) corporation with a diverse range of stakeholders. Mizuho incorporates these policies in three types of business activities: Environmental Finance (financing environmentally impactful projects and environmentally conscious companies), Consulting Service, Survey and Research, and Investment Products Development and Sales.

The Mizuho Green Bond Framework aligns with the first pillar of Mizuho's environmental policy, i.e. the development of financial products and services that encourage society to promote environmental consideration, and also contributes to Mizuho FG's Environmental Finance business activity.

Furthermore, Mizuho FG also has a target to reduce CO2 by 10.5% by FY2020, and 19% by FY2030 through its business activities, compared to FY2009 levels.

Process to Mitigate Environmental and Social Risks

The Sustainable Development Office of Mizuho BK's Global Project Finance Department (Sustainable Development Office) reviews and conducts the required due diligence in light of the Equator Principles, and categorizes projects as Category A, B or C based on its internal environmental and social risk assessment process. Such categorization is based on the environmental and social categorization process of the International Finance Corporation. As a part of this process, Mizuho BK evaluates a project for minimal (Category C), limited (Category B) or significant (Category A) potential adverse environmental

³ Environmental Policies and Targets, Mizuho Financial Group
<https://www.mizuho-fg.com/csr/environment/policy/index.html>

⁴ Environmental Policies and Targets, Mizuho Financial Group
<https://www.mizuho-fg.com/csr/environment/policy/index.html>

and social risk. In general, for each project where limited or significant risk is identified, Mizuho BK's internal process requires the Sustainable Development Office to work in partnership with its clients to assess and manage these environmental and social risks and impacts. Specifically with respect to the Mizuho Green Bond, projects categorized as having significant environmental risks (category A) are not financed through the proceeds of the Mizuho Green Bond.

3.3 Management of Proceeds

An amount equal to the net proceeds from the sale of a specific issue of green bond will be loaned to Mizuho BK and allocated by Mizuho BK to the financing of existing and new Eligible Green Projects. So long as that tranche of bonds remains outstanding, Mizuho FG will keep the list of all Eligible Green Project loans based on Mizuho BK's internal loan data system and its output, and such records of that list will show an amount equal to the net proceeds from the issuance of those bonds as allocated to the assets that meet Mizuho FG's internal investment criteria for Eligible Green Projects. Pending the allocation of the net proceeds of such bond to finance Eligible Green Projects, the net proceeds will be invested in overnight or otherwise short-term financial instruments.

Payment of principal of and interest on the bond will be made from Mizuho FG's general funds and will not be directly linked to the performance of any Eligible Green Projects.

Mizuho FG will review and update the Eligible Green Projects to which the net proceeds of the bond are allocated on an annual basis. Any proceeds allocated to projects that have been sold, prepaid, amortized or otherwise become ineligible shall be reallocated to other Eligible Green Projects.

3.4 Reporting

Allocation Reporting

During the term of any tranche or series of green bonds issued, Mizuho FG will provide and keep readily available, on a designated website, information on the allocation of the net proceeds of these bonds, to be updated at least annually.

This information will include: (i) the allocation of the net proceeds of those bonds to Eligible Green Projects, brief description of the Eligible Green Projects funded, current funded amounts, and funding dates and (ii) assertions by management that the net proceeds of that tranche or series of green bonds are invested either in qualifying Eligible Green Projects or in overnight or other short-term financial instruments. The updates and assertions will be accompanied by a report from an independent accountant in respect of the independent accountant's assurance of management's assertion conducted in accordance with International Standard on Assurance Engagements (ISAE) 3000. In general, Mizuho FG will report on a loan by loan basis, but for smaller amount loans, Mizuho FG may report on an aggregate basis.

Impact Reporting

Mizuho FG also intends to report, where feasible and when available, on the impact of Eligible Green Projects. In the case of Renewable Energy projects, Mizuho FG intends to report tons of CO2 emission

equivalent avoided. All impact reporting (as and when feasible and available) will be disclosed on an aggregate basis, by eligible project category.

4. SUSTAINALYTICS' OPINION

Section 1: Sustainalytics' Opinion on the Green Bond Framework

Summary

Overall, Sustainalytics is of the opinion that the Mizuho Green Bond Framework creates meaningful impact, is transparent, and aligns with the Green Bond Principles 2017 and Japan's Green Bond Guidelines 2017. Some considerations in Sustainalytics' assessment are listed below:

- Renewable Energy, Clean Transportation, and Pollution Prevention and Control are recognized by the 2017 Green Bond Principles and Japan's Green Bond Guidelines 2017 as project categories with clear environmental impact.
- Mizuho FG's disclosure and processes with respect to management of proceeds and project selection process are in line with market practices
- Mizuho FG has committed to reporting on the impact of Eligible Green Projects, where feasible and when available. In the case of Renewable Energy projects, Mizuho FG intends to report tons of CO2 emission equivalent avoided. Reporting on quantitative impact indicators is in line with market practice, and Mizuho FG is following this market practice for Renewable Energy projects. Sustainalytics encourages the issuer to report on quantitative impact indicators for other eligible project categories, when such information is feasible and available.

Alignment with Green Bond Principles 2017: Sustainalytics has determined that the Mizuho Green Bond Framework aligns to the four pillars of the Green Bond Principles 2017. For detailed information please refer to Appendix 2: Green Bond/Green Bond Programme External Review Form.

Alignment with Japan's Green Bond Guidelines 2017

Sustainalytics is of the opinion that Japan's Green Bond Guidelines 2017 are in line with the ICMA Green Bond Principles. In addition, Japan's Green Bond Guidelines 2017 communicate what an issuer should do to issue a credible green bond, and also highlight what an issuer is recommended to do. Sustainalytics assessed the alignment between the Mizuho Green Bond Framework and the "should" items outlined in Japan's Green Bond Guidelines 2017.

ICMA Green Bond Principles and Japan's Green Bond Guidelines, 2017 ⁵	Alignment with GBP and with Japan's Green Bond Guidelines 2017?	Sustainalytics' comments on alignment with Japan's Green Bond Guidelines 2017. ⁶
1. Use of Proceeds	Yes	Eligible project categories (Renewable energy, Clean Transportation, and Pollution Prevention and Control) in the Mizuho Green Bond Framework are outlined with clear details and are recognized by Japan's Green Bond Guidelines 2017 as providing clear environmental benefit. Mizuho FG also identifies social and environmental risk (any potential negative impact) associated with the eligible projects, and explains how they manage the risk through the application of the Equator Principles.
2. Process for Project Evaluation and Selection	Yes	Mizuho Green Bond Framework well describes information, required by Japan's Green Bond Guidelines 2017, on 1) "Environmental sustainability objectives" (In this report: Environmental Objectives), 2) "Criteria" for evaluating and selecting specific green projects (in this report: "Eligibility Criteria" and "Application of Eligibility Criteria in Project Selection"), and 3) "Process" to evaluate and select eligible green projects (In this report: "Process to Mitigate Environmental and Social Risks" and "Application of Eligibility Criteria in Project Selection").
3. Management of Proceeds	Yes	Mizuho Green Bond Framework clarifies that Mizuho FG manages proceeds by 1) keeping the list of all Eligible Green Project loans based on Mizuho BK's internal loan data system, 2) recoding the amount of the allocated and unallocated proceeds (which will be invested in short-term financial instruments) to match to the total proceeds allocated by the green bond, and 3) making sure that the proceeds are tracked and managed, which are all followed by Japan's Green Bond Guidelines 2017. Mizuho FG explains this to green bond investors.

⁵ Green Bond Guidelines, 2017, Summary, Ministry of the Environment, Japan
<https://www.env.go.jp/en/policy/economy/gb/summary2017.pdf>

⁶ For detailed comments on alignment with ICMA GBP, please see Appendix 2.

<p>4. Reporting</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Mizuho Green Bond Framework clearly commits to disclose the five items annually, which are required by Japan’s Green Bond Guidelines 2017. List of projects that have been allocated, brief description of projects, amount allocated, environmental benefits, and information on unallocated proceeds.</p>
----------------------------	------------	--

Section 2: Sustainability Performance of the Issuer

Contribution of framework to Mizuho Financial Group’s sustainability strategy

Mizuho’s environmental policy and the six pillars relating to its policy are described in the Mizuho Green Bond Framework. Sustainalytics ESG research assesses Mizuho FG as having a strong environmental policy as the policy (i) is approved by senior management or the board of directors, (ii) undertakes a commitment to consult with stakeholders, and (iii) takes a precautionary approach to environmental challenges, i.e. Mizuho recognizes climate change as a risk and takes voluntary and proactive approach to address climate change.

As described in the Mizuho Green Bond Framework, Mizuho’s environmental policy is implemented in its three lines of business, including Environmental Finance. Sustainalytics is of the opinion that Mizuho’s commitment to financing environmentally impactful projects is strong, as demonstrated through the transparent reporting on its website. As of March 2017, Mizuho reports to have financed 604.1 billion JPY of environmentally impactful projects⁷. Sustainalytics is of the opinion that such transparent reporting is indicative of the priority Mizuho gives to environmental finance business activity.

Overall, the Mizuho Green Bond Framework is aligned with Mizuho FG’s environmental policy, and contributes to enhancing its Environmental Finance business activity.

Well positioned to address common environmental and social risks associated with projects

Mizuho FG is well positioned to manage key environmental and social risks associated with the Mizuho Green Bond projects. In general, some key environmental and social risks associated with projects are utilization of viable forest or food products as biomass, and worker safety and pollution control in construction and development projects. The strength of Mizuho’s risk management is based on the following:

1. Mizuho FG stated to Sustainalytics its commitment that biomass project which use viable forest and food products as biomass for energy production will not be included as Eligible Green Project. Mizuho FG has formalized this commitment in Mizuho Green Bond Framework, which Sustainalytics considers to be in line with market norms.
2. Mizuho BK demonstrates that its Sustainable Development Office reviews and conducts the required due diligence with alignments to the Equator Principles (EP). The EP are commonly

⁷Environment-related Funding Provided by MHBK
https://www.mizuho-fg.com/investors/financial/annual/data1703/pdf/data1703_07.pdf

accepted as a credible standard and widely used by financial institutions worldwide, including several multilateral development banks and export credit agencies. Lending as per the EP thus contributes to Mizuho BK's robust environmental and social risk mitigation approach. For Sustainalytics' complete analysis on the EP please see Appendix 1.

3. As a part of the assessment and categorization process of the EP, Mizuho BK, through its Sustainable Development Office, works with clients to manage any risks identified.

Based on the above, Sustainalytics is of the opinion that Mizuho has strong internal management system and is well prepared to mitigate any environmental risks.

Section 3: Impact of Use of Proceeds

All eligible project categories are recognized as impactful by the ICMA Green Bond Principles, and Japan's Green Bond Guidelines 2017. Sustainalytics has highlighted below the impact of renewable energy, as Mizuho has indicated that renewable energy forms the bulk of their portfolio.

Importance of renewable energy in Japan

The energy self-sufficiency ratio of Japan is low especially compared to OECD countries⁸, and the country imports about 84% of its energy⁹. The energy source that Japan heavily depended on before the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011 was nuclear power, the development of which Japan had set as a national strategy priority since 1973¹⁰. However, it became necessary for Japan to revise its energy mix and strategic plan after the country experienced an accident at Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Plant and subsequent shutdown of nuclear plants across Japan due to residents' concerns. In the new strategic plan, the target of renewable energy including wind, solar, geothermal, biomass and hydro is set at 22-24% by 2030 – a significant increase from 1.1% before the earthquake. Given this context, it is clear that there is a growing need to finance the construction and operation renewable energy facilities in Japan. As well, given the COP22 targets and commitments, and the need for a global transition to a low-carbon economy, there is also a clear need for promoting the development of renewable energy projects globally.

⁸ Japan's Energy, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry Agency for Natural Resources and Energy, Japan
http://www.enecho.meti.go.jp/en/category/brochures/pdf/japan_energy_2016.pdf

⁹ Nuclear Power in Japan, World Nuclear Association
<http://www.world-nuclear.org/information-library/country-profiles/countries-g-n/japan-nuclear-power.aspx>

¹⁰ Nuclear Power in Japan, World Nuclear Association
<http://www.world-nuclear.org/information-library/country-profiles/countries-g-n/japan-nuclear-power.aspx>

Alignment with/contribution to SDGs

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were established in September 2015 and form an agenda for achieving sustainable development by the year 2030. The Mizuho Green Bond will advance the following SDG goals and targets:

Use of Proceeds Category	SDG	SDG target
Renewable Energy	7. Affordable and Clean Energy	7.2 By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix
Clean Transportation	9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	9.1 Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and trans-border infrastructure, to support economic
Pollution prevention and control	3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages	3.9 By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination

Conclusion

The Mizuho Green Bond Framework is transparent and provides clarity regarding the use of proceeds which focus on Renewable Energy, Clean Transportation, and Pollution Prevention and Control- all of which are included in the GBP as an eligible green project categories. Additionally, Mizuho’s project selection process is based on external standards such as the Equator Principles. This ensures that projects funded through bond proceeds have minimal or limited adverse environmental or social impacts. Sustainalytics is of the opinion that the Mizuho Green Bond Framework aligns with the four pillars of the GBP 2017 and Japan’s Green Bond Guidelines 2017 , and is robust and credible.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Sustainalytics assessment of the strength of the Equator Principles

Mizuho BK adheres to the Equator Principles (EP) to ensure that the projects it finances are developed and operate in accordance with international environmental and social standards. In Sustainalytics' view, the credibility of the EP as a risk management tool for large-scale projects derives from its ability to ensure:

- (i) *A mandatory review of all projects with respect to their level of impact in a comprehensive range of environmental and social areas*

Principle 1 of the EP mandates a review and categorisation of all projects as having significant (Category a), limited (Category b), or minimal (Category c) environmental and social impact. Such Categorization is based on the environmental and social categorization process of the International Finance Corporation. For each project where limited or significant risk is identified, Mizuho BK's internal process requires the Sustainable Development Office to work in partnership with its clients to assess and manage environmental and social risks and impacts.

- (ii) *Strong mitigation process for projects with significant or limited adverse environmental and social impact*

The EP (specifically Principles 2-6) also require all¹¹ Category A and B projects to conduct environmental and social impact assessments, develop and maintain environmental management systems, demonstrate effective stakeholder engagement, and establish a grievance mechanism to address concerns around the project's environmental and social performance. Sustainalytics is of the opinion that the above mentioned components combine to form a strong overall process for mitigating impacts throughout the life of project.

- (iii) *Continuous independent assurance of a project's environmental and social impact*

Principle 7 of the EP require that Category A and as appropriate, Category B projects are subject to an independent review to assess the strength of the mitigation processes outlined above, and to assess compliance with the EP. Additionally, Principle 9 of the EP also requires the appointment of an independent environmental and social consultant to verify ongoing monitoring and reporting of project impacts.

¹¹ Please note that for projects implemented in a set list of 'Designated Countries,' compliance with host country laws meets these mitigation requirements. This is because these countries are assessed as having robust environmental and social governance, legislation systems and institutional capacity designed to protect their people and the natural environment.

Appendix 2: Green Bond/Green Bond Programme External Review Form

Green Bond / Green Bond Programme External Review Form

Section 1. Basic Information

Issuer name: Mizuho Financial Group, Inc.

Green Bond ISIN or Issuer Green Bond Framework Name, if applicable:

Review provider's name: Sustainalytics

Completion date of this form: September 19, 2017

Publication date of review publication: September 25, 2017

Section 2. Review overview

SCOPE OF REVIEW

The review assessed the following elements and confirmed their alignment with the GBPs:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Use of Proceeds | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Process for Project Evaluation and Selection |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Management of Proceeds | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reporting |

ROLE(S) OF REVIEW PROVIDER

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consultancy (incl. 2 nd opinion) | <input type="checkbox"/> Certification |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Verification | <input type="checkbox"/> Rating |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>): | |

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REVIEW and/or LINK TO FULL REVIEW (*if applicable*)

Please refer to Green Bond Framework and Second Opinion Document above.

Section 3. Detailed review

1. USE OF PROCEEDS

Overall comment on section (if applicable):

Eligible Green Projects will meet ALL of the conditions below:

- (i) A project meets one or more of the eligible project categories (a) to (c) below,
- (ii) A project is categorized as Category B or Category C projects in accordance with the Equator Principles, and
- (iii) A loan for a project has been financed by Mizuho BK within 24 months as of issue date of a relevant green bond, or will be newly financed on or after the issue date.

Eligible Project Categories

Eligible Green Projects will include projects meeting one or more of the categories below.

(a) RENEWABLE ENERGY

The development, construction and operation of renewable energy facilities which generate wind, solar, solar thermal, biomass (except sustainable feedstock and viable forest based biomass), geothermal energy, and small hydro facilities with generation capacity of 25 megawatts or less.

(b) CLEAN TRANSPORTATION

Projects to develop, operate and upgrade public transportation facilities, infrastructure and technologies including expansion and improvements to rail transport, non-motorised transport (such as bicycles), manufacturing of electric vehicles, and multi-modal transport.

(c) POLLUTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL

The development, construction and operation of pollution prevention and control facilities, such as waste recycling and waste-to-energy power plants.

Sustainalytics is of the opinion that eligible project categories are recognized by the GBP 2017 as having clear environmental impact.

Use of proceeds categories as per GBP:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Renewable energy | <input type="checkbox"/> Energy efficiency |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pollution prevention and control | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustainable management of living natural resources |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity conservation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clean transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustainable water management | <input type="checkbox"/> Climate change adaptation |

- Eco-efficient products, production technologies and processes
- Other (please specify):

- Unknown at issuance but currently expected to conform with GBP categories, or other eligible areas not yet stated in GBPs

If applicable please specify the environmental taxonomy, if other than GBPs:

2. PROCESS FOR PROJECT EVALUATION AND SELECTION

Overall comment on section (if applicable):
Eligible Green Projects are identified and selected to align with the eligibility criteria described above via a process that involves participants from various functional areas including Mizuho FG’s Global Products Coordination Department and Corporate Communications Department. The selection process of Eligible Green Projects, is based on the list of project finances offered by Mizuho BK. Mizuho FG’s Global Products Coordination Department drafts the list of Eligible Green Projects - candidate projects that are suited to any of Project Categories (a) to (c) mentioned above, and that meet condition iii) above will be proposed. Finally, the Corporate Communications Department will select Eligible Green Projects from the candidate projects list and confirm that these projects fall into Category B or C based on the Equator Principles.

Sustainalytics is of the opinion that this is in line with market norms.

Evaluation and selection

- Defined and transparent criteria for projects eligible for Green Bond proceeds
- Documented process to determine that projects fit within defined categories
- Summary criteria for project evaluation and selection publicly available
- Other (please specify):

Information on Responsibilities and Accountability

- Evaluation / Selection criteria subject to external advice or verification
- In-house assessment
- Other (please specify):

3. MANAGEMENT OF PROCEEDS

Overall comment on section (if applicable):
An amount equal to the net proceeds from the sale of a specific issue of green bond will be loaned to Mizuho BK and allocated by Mizuho BK to the financing of existing and new Eligible Green Projects. So

long as that tranche of bonds remains outstanding, Mizuho FG will keep the list of all Eligible Green Project loans based on Mizuho BK’s internal loan data system and its output, and such records of that list will show an amount equal to the net proceeds from the issuance of those bonds as allocated to the assets that meet Mizuho FG’s internal investment criteria for Eligible Green Projects. Pending the allocation of the net proceeds of such bond to finance Eligible Green Projects, the net proceeds will be invested in overnight or otherwise short-term financial instruments.

Sustainalytics is of the opinion that this is in line with market norms.

Tracking of proceeds:

- Green Bond proceeds segregated or tracked by the issuer in a systematic manner
- Disclosure of intended types of temporary investment instruments for unallocated proceeds
- Other *(please specify)*:

Additional disclosure:

- Allocations to future investments only
- Allocations to both existing and future investments
- Allocation to individual disbursements
- Allocation to a portfolio of disbursements
- Disclosure of portfolio balance of unallocated proceeds
- Other *(please specify)*:

4. REPORTING

Overall comment on section *(if applicable)*:
During the term of any tranche or series of green bonds issued, Mizuho FG will provide and keep readily available, on a designated website, information on the allocation of the net proceeds of these bonds, to be updated at least annually.

This information will include: (i) the allocation of the net proceeds of those bonds to Eligible Green Projects, brief description of the Eligible Green Projects funded, current funded amounts, and funding dates and (ii) assertions by management that the net proceeds of that tranche or series of green bonds are invested either in qualifying Eligible Green Projects or in overnight or other short-term financial instruments. The updates and assertions will be accompanied by a report from an independent accountant in respect of the independent accountant’s assurance of management’s assertion conducted in accordance with International Standard on Assurance Engagements (ISAE) 3000.

In general, Mizuho FG will report on a loan by loan basis, but for smaller amount loans, Mizuho FG may report on an aggregate basis.

Impact Reporting

Mizuho FG also intends to report, where feasible and when available, on the impact of Eligible Green Projects. In the case of Renewable Energy projects, Mizuho FG intends to report tons of CO2 emission equivalent avoided.

All impact reporting (as and when feasible and available) will be disclosed on an aggregate basis, by eligible project category.

Use of proceeds reporting:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Project-by-project | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On a project portfolio basis |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Linkage to individual bond(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>): |

Information reported:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Allocated amounts | <input type="checkbox"/> GB financed share of total investment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>): | |

Frequency:

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Annual | <input type="checkbox"/> Semi-annual |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>): | |

Impact reporting:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Project-by-project | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On a project portfolio basis |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Linkage to individual bond(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>): |

Frequency:

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Annual | <input type="checkbox"/> Semi-annual |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>): | |

Information reported (expected or ex-post):

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GHG Emissions / Savings | <input type="checkbox"/> Energy Savings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other ESG indicators (<i>please specify</i>): | |

Means of Disclosure

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Information published in financial report | <input type="checkbox"/> Information published in sustainability report |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Information published in ad hoc documents | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>): Website |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reporting reviewed (<i>if yes, please specify which parts of the reporting are subject to external review</i>): | |

Where appropriate, please specify name and date of publication in the useful links section.

USEFUL LINKS (e.g. to review provider methodology or credentials, to issuer’s documentation, etc.)

The Equator Principles: <http://www.equator-principles.com/>
The IFC Performance Standards:
http://www.ifc.org/wps/wcm/connect/topics_ext_content/ifc_external_corporate_site/sustainability-at-ifc/policies-standards/es-categorization

SPECIFY OTHER EXTERNAL REVIEWS AVAILABLE, IF APPROPRIATE

Type(s) of Review provided:

- Consultancy (incl. 2nd opinion)
- Certification
- Verification / Audit
- Rating
- Other (please specify):

Review provider(s):

Date of publication:

ABOUT ROLE(S) OF REVIEW PROVIDERS AS DEFINED BY THE GBP

- (i) Consultant Review: An issuer can seek advice from consultants and/or institutions with recognized expertise in environmental sustainability or other aspects of the issuance of a Green Bond, such as the establishment/review of an issuer’s Green Bond framework. “Second opinions” may fall into this category.
- (ii) Verification: An issuer can have its Green Bond, associated Green Bond framework, or underlying assets independently verified by qualified parties, such as auditors. In contrast to certification, verification may focus on alignment with internal standards or claims made by the issuer. Evaluation of the environmentally sustainable features of underlying assets may be termed verification and may reference external criteria.
- (iii) Certification: An issuer can have its Green Bond or associated Green Bond framework or Use of Proceeds certified against an external green assessment standard. An assessment standard defines criteria, and alignment with such criteria is tested by qualified third parties / certifiers.
- (iv) Rating: An issuer can have its Green Bond or associated Green Bond framework rated by qualified third parties, such as specialised research providers or rating agencies. Green Bond ratings are separate from an issuer’s ESG rating as they typically apply to individual securities or Green Bond frameworks / programmes.

Disclaimer

All rights reserved. No part of this second party opinion (the “Opinion”) may be reproduced, transmitted or published in any form or by any means without the prior written permission of Sustainalytics.

The Opinion was drawn up with the aim to explain why the analyzed bond is considered sustainable and responsible. Consequently, this Opinion is for information purposes only and Sustainalytics will not accept any form of liability for the substance of the opinion and/or any liability for damage arising from the use of this Opinion and/or the information provided in it.

As the Opinion is based on information made available by the client, Sustainalytics does not warrant that the information presented in this Opinion is complete, accurate or up to date.

Nothing contained in this Opinion shall be construed as to make a representation or warranty, express or implied, regarding the advisability to invest in or include companies in investable universes and/or portfolios. Furthermore, this Opinion shall in no event be interpreted and construed as an assessment of the economic performance and credit worthiness of the bond, nor to have focused on the effective allocation of the funds’ use of proceeds.

The client is fully responsible for certifying and ensuring its commitments` compliance, implementation and monitoring.

SUSTAINALYTICS

Sustainalytics is an independent ESG and corporate governance research, ratings and analysis firm supporting investors around the world with the development and implementation of responsible investment strategies. With 13 offices globally, Sustainalytics partners with institutional investors who integrate environmental, social and governance information and assessments into their investment processes. Today, the firm has more than 300 staff members, including 170 analysts with varied multidisciplinary expertise of more than 40 sectors. Through the IRRI survey, investors selected Sustainalytics as the best independent responsible investment research firm for three consecutive years, 2012 through 2014 and in 2015, Sustainalytics was named among the top three firms for both ESG and Corporate Governance research. The firm was also named the Best SRI or Green Bond Research Firm by Global Capital in 2015. For more information, visit www.sustainalytics.com

Sustainalytics
info@sustainalytics.com
www.sustainalytics.com

