

## ASSESSMENT

13 February 2026



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## Mizuho Bank, Ltd.

### Second Party Opinion – Green Deposit Framework Assigned SQS2 Sustainability Quality Score

#### Summary

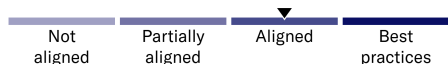
We have assigned an SQS2 Sustainability Quality Score (very good) to Mizuho Bank, Ltd.'s ('MHBK' or 'the issuer') green deposit framework dated February 2026. MHBK has established its use-of-proceeds framework to finance nine eligible green categories. The framework is aligned with the four components of the International Capital Market Association's (ICMA) Green Bond Principles (GBP) 2025. The framework demonstrates a significant contribution to sustainability.

#### Sustainability quality score



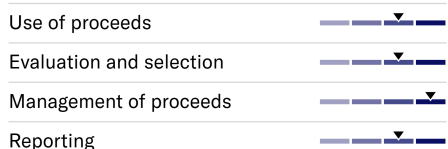
#### Alignment with principles USE OF PROCEEDS

##### Overall alignment



##### FACTORS

##### ALIGNMENT



#### Contribution to sustainability

##### Final contribution to sustainability



##### Preliminary contribution to sustainability

Relevance and magnitude

Additional considerations No adjustment

POINT-IN-TIME ASSESSMENT

## Scope

We have provided a Second Party Opinion (SPO) on the sustainability credentials of MHBK's green deposit framework, including the framework's alignment with the ICMA's GBP 2025. Under its framework, MHBK plans to finance projects in nine green categories as outlined in Appendix 3 of this report.

Our assessment is based on the last updated version of the framework received in February 2026, and our opinion reflects our point-in-time assessment<sup>1</sup> of the details contained in this version of the framework, as well as other public and non-public information provided by the company.

We produced this SPO based on our [Assessment Framework: Second Party Opinions on Sustainable Debt](#), published in October 2025.

## Issuer profile

Mizuho Bank, Ltd. is a retail and wholesale bank operating under Mizuho Financial Group Inc. ('Mizuho' or 'the group'). Headquartered in Tokyo, Mizuho is one of the largest financial groups in Japan, with a number of enterprises operating under its umbrella: MHBK; Mizuho Trust & Banking Co., Ltd., a trust bank; Mizuho Securities Co., Ltd., a securities company; and a number of other entities, which together provide a comprehensive array of financial services. The group's consolidated total assets were ¥292.3 trillion as of the end of June 2024.

As a financial institution, Mizuho faces environmental risks, particularly from carbon transition due to its exposure to carbon-intensive sectors. Such risk is mitigated by the bank's diversified portfolio and its strategy to transitioning its lending and investment portfolios to net zero targets. Mizuho's physical climate risks are manageable. Mizuho faces social risks related to cyber security, customer privacy, and changing demographics in Japan where the population has been both shrinking and aging over the past few decades. However, the group is well placed to overcome these difficulties because it has the resources to invest in new businesses and diversify away from domestic interest rate-related income.

## Strengths

- » The majority of the proceeds from renewable energy category will be allocated to solar and wind projects, which are considered to be the best available technologies
- » The proceeds from the green deposit will be allocated to eligible projects shortly after the funds are raised, which is in line with the best market practice of short allocation period of less than 24 months
- » Projects related to landfills are clearly excluded from the eligible projects

## Challenges

- » For the circular economy category, although the issuer has established a clear and relevant technical threshold for carbon content, a greater allocation is anticipated towards blue hydrogen, which raises concerns about potential carbon lock-in
- » Although the framework is in line with current market practices, inclusion of general corporate purpose loans through pure-play companies constitutes a nonstandard use of proceeds susceptible to specific challenges in terms of asset-level adherence to sustainability objectives, allocation and traceability, impact reporting, and an increased risk of double counting

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## Alignment with principles

MHBK's green deposit framework is aligned with the four core components of the ICMA's GBP 2025. For a summary alignment with principles scorecard, please see Appendix 1.

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|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> Green Bond Principles (GBP)       | <input type="radio"/> Green Loan Principles (GLP)                  |
| <input type="radio"/> Social Bond Principles (SBP)                 | <input type="radio"/> Social Loan Principles (SLP)                 |
| <input type="radio"/> Sustainability-Linked Bond Principles (SLBP) | <input type="radio"/> Sustainability Linked Loan Principles (SLLP) |

## Use of proceeds



### Clarity of the eligible categories – **ALIGNED**

The issuer has clearly communicated the nature of the expenditures, the eligibility and exclusion criteria for the eligible projects. The issuer has articulated the eligibility criteria for all projects categories. The issuer disclosed that the eligible projects can be located in different geographic regions, including the United States, Europe, and Asia Pacific including Japan.

The cornerstone of the ICMA's GBP is the full utilization of net proceeds for eligible projects with clear environmental or social benefits. While MHBK does not anticipate plans to allocate proceeds to pure-play companies in the near term, the framework's eligibility criteria includes financing of pure-players that derive at least 90% of their revenue from eligible green projects that adhere to the eligibility criteria in the framework, with the remaining 10% not being derived from controversial activities and from those listed under the framework's exclusion criteria. The issuer has communicated to us through internal documentation that eligible pure-players are mainly expected to be power generation companies specializing in renewable energy.

In our view, this represents a nonstandard use of proceeds that introduces certain challenges in terms of asset-level adherence to sustainability objectives, allocation and traceability, impact reporting, as well as an increased risk of double counting. MHBK has confirmed through internal documentation that it has measures in place to identify, select and allocate net proceeds to pure-play companies that align with the eligibility criteria, sustainability objectives and benefits outlined in the framework. The issuer will continuously monitor the compliance of the proceeds allocated to pure-players with the eligibility criteria, as long as allocated proceeds remain outstanding. However, we lack visibility on whether the issuer has suitable measures in place to trace and ensure allocated funds will be used for specific eligible expenditures within the pure-player, as well as whether it will report on the allocation, benefits, and material developments of pure play investments. MHBK has measures in place to prevent the risk of double counting loans for pure players and loans for specific green use of proceeds for the same transaction within the group.

With these mitigants in place, coupled with the limited net proceeds allocation, the 90% threshold and the exclusion of activities that conflict with the environmental or social objectives, we consider this structure to be in line with current market practices.

### Clarity of the environmental or social objectives – **ALIGNED**

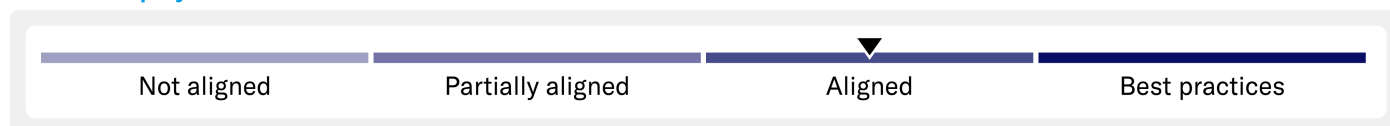
The issuer has clearly defined the environmental objectives associated with all nine categories. The objectives include climate change mitigation, pollution prevention and control, natural resource conservation, and biodiversity conservation. All eligible categories are relevant to the respective environmental objectives to which they are aiming to contribute. The issuer has referenced UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in articulating the objectives of the eligible categories (see Appendix 2).

### Clarity of expected benefits – **ALIGNED**

The issuer has identified clear and relevant expected environmental benefits for nearly all the eligible categories. For green buildings category, the expected impact indicators lack core indicators that measure the direct environmental benefits (such as final or primary energy use, annual GHG emissions reduced). The benefits are measurable, and they will be quantified for all categories in the annual

reporting. The issuer has communicated to us that they do not anticipate proceeds to be used for refinancing of projects unless the financed projects are fully repaid.

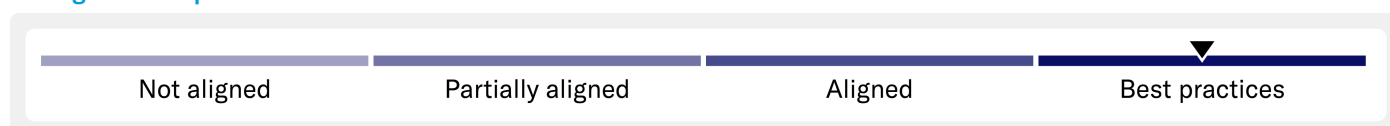
### Process for project evaluation and selection



#### Transparency and clarity of the process for defining and monitoring eligible projects – ALIGNED

The issuer's decision-making process for the selection and evaluation of projects is clearly structured, and is outlined in its publicly available framework. Eligible projects will be identified and selected through a process involving various functional areas within Mizuho Bank and Mizuho Financial Group. The issuer is committed to annually monitoring the compliance of selected projects with both eligibility and exclusion criteria until the full term of the green deposits. In the event a project no longer fulfills the eligibility criteria, the net proceeds will be reallocated to other eligible projects. The framework also clearly delineates the Environmental & Social (E&S) risk management process, and the issuer will conduct reviews and due diligence in accordance with the Equator Principles, incorporating an internal E&S risk assessment to ensure that projects with inherent environmental and social externalities have appropriate mitigation measures in place.

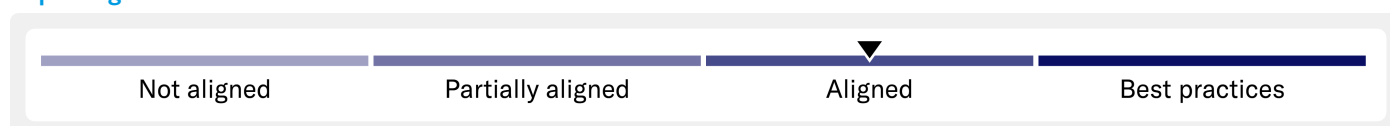
### Management of proceeds



#### Allocation and tracking of proceeds – BEST PRACTICES

The issuer has defined a clear process for the management and allocation of proceeds in its publicly available framework. The green deposit proceeds will be deposited into a general treasury account and tracked using an internal loan data system. These proceeds will be adjusted semiannually to align with the amounts allocated to eligible green projects. Upon bond issuance, the proceeds will be promptly allocated to the designated projects. Any temporarily unallocated proceeds will be invested in overnight or other short-term financial instruments.

### Reporting

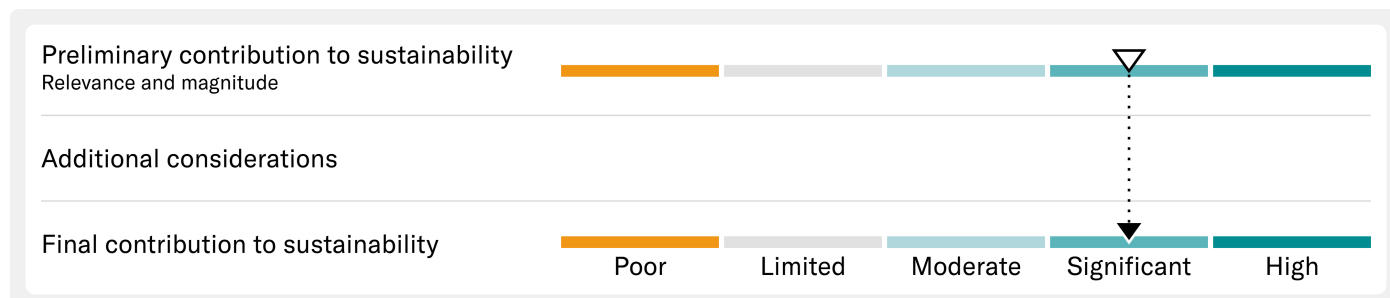


#### Reporting transparency – ALIGNED

The issuer will report annually on the use of proceeds allocation and impact reporting. Reportings will be conducted until full allocation and on timely basis in the event of any material developments. The reports will be publicly accessible on the issuer's website. The reports will encompass descriptions of the projects, the amounts allocated to eligible projects, and the environmental impacts associated with these projects. Additionally, the methodology and assumptions used to assess the environmental impacts will be included in the reporting. The issuer commits to obtaining an annual external review on the allocation of the proceeds and the associated environmental impacts.

## Contribution to sustainability

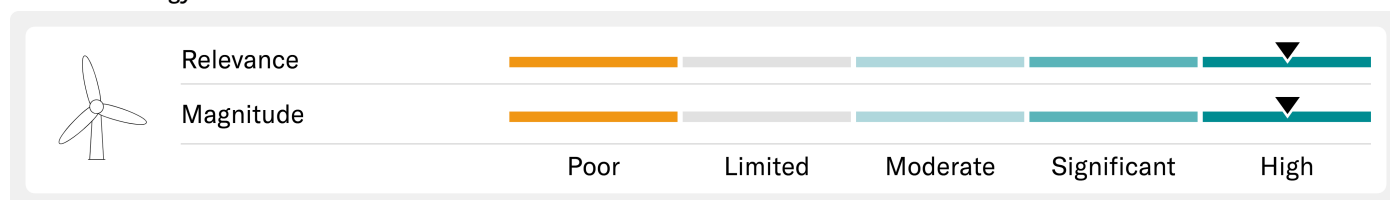
The framework demonstrates a significant overall contribution to sustainability. This reflects a preliminary contribution to sustainability score of significant, based on the relevance and magnitude of the eligible project categories, and we have not made an adjustment to the preliminary score based on additional contribution to sustainability considerations.



### Preliminary contribution to sustainability

The preliminary contribution to sustainability is significant, based on the relevance and magnitude of the eligible project categories. Based on the information provided by the issuer, the vast majority of the proceeds are expected to be allocated to the green buildings and renewable energy categories, and therefore we have assigned a higher weight to these categories in our assessment. A detailed assessment by eligible category has been provided below.

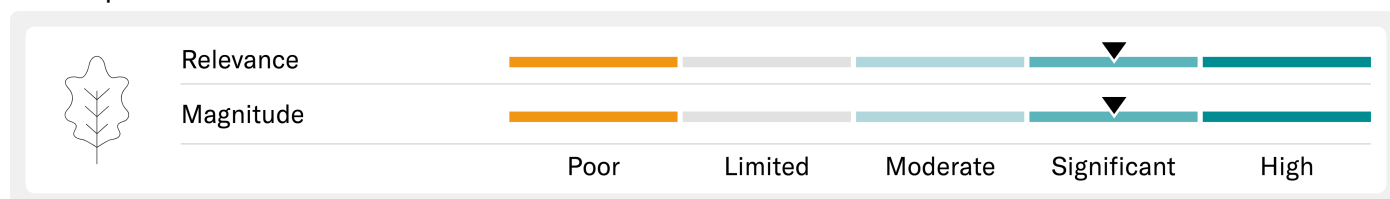
#### Renewable energy



Investments supporting the energy transition to low carbon and renewable sources are highly relevant to the country and to the banking sector in general. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the power sector and expanding renewable energy are vital for Japan, as highlighted in its Strategic Energy Plan. Japan aims to procure approximately 40% to 50% of its energy from renewable sources by 2040, up from the current 23%<sup>2</sup>. The banking sector plays a critical role in mobilizing capital to address climate change and to support the decarbonization of energy sources. Globally, the shift to renewables would have to increase to over 60% in 2030 and to nearly 90% in 2050 globally under IEA's net zero emissions scenario<sup>3</sup>.

The magnitude of this category is high. The issuer has confirmed that the majority of the proceeds will be allocated to wind and solar projects, which are among the cleanest energy options and considered to be the best-available technologies with minimal externalities. The eligibility criteria for other technologies, including geothermal, hydropower, and solar thermal energy, are also clearly defined and are broadly aligned with the Climate Bonds Initiative (CBI) criteria. For grid transmission and distribution projects, the transmission and distribution lines will either be dedicated to transporting energy from renewable sources or will ensure that more than 90% of the energy transported is from renewable sources. However, bioenergy projects, on stand alone basis, would achieve a moderate magnitude score because of inclusion of woody biomass as eligible feedstock and scope of technical thresholds. These concerns are mitigated to an extent by ensuring that the eligible wood feedstock are limited to those provided by suppliers certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) or the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC). Projects using waste from palm oil operations are also limited to waste from palm oil suppliers that are certified by RSPO (Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil) or RSB (Roundtable on Sustainable Biomaterials). In addition, the projects will adhere to a technical threshold of 100g CO<sub>2</sub>/kWh lifecycle emissions, which applies only to non-waste feedstock.

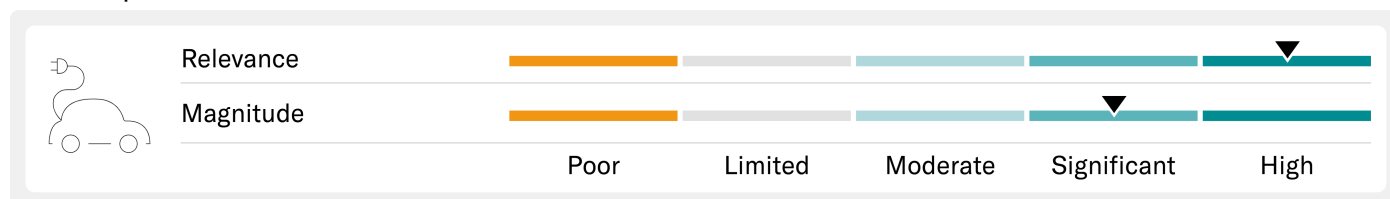
## Pollution prevention and control



The relevance of this category is significant because addressing pollution is a global issue. Managing and reducing pollution is crucial as municipal solid waste (MSW) generation is projected to escalate from 2.1 billion tonnes in 2023 to 3.8 billion tonnes by 2050, according to the UNEP<sup>4</sup>. Preventing marine pollution from vessels is equally critical, given that the shipping industry contributes to various forms of pollution beyond CO2 emissions, including water and oil contamination. However, the relevance of these projects is contingent upon their geographical context. For instance, MSW is rapidly increasing in fast-growing economies such as Central and South Asia, where waste management infrastructure is already saturated. The significant relevance score reflects the absence of specific project locations and lesser materiality for the issuer, who has communicated that no projects are currently under consideration for upcoming issuances.

The financed projects under this category are expected to have a significant contribution to pollution prevention. Financing projects related to facilities that process recyclable waste into secondary raw materials, as well as those that collect, sort, clean, refurbish, recondition, and repair products, are anticipated to help reduce pollution. However, the issuer has not provided information related to recycling methods used or other relevant thresholds, which limits our ability to fully assess the contribution to the stated objective. For waste-to-energy projects, although they carry inherent externalities, the issuer has indicated that the eligible projects will follow the CBI waste management criteria (regarding plant efficiency, bottom ash recovery, average carbon intensity, plant capacity) and will also adhere to the waste hierarchy. Additionally, the issuer has communicated that plastic, rubber, and tires are explicitly excluded from eligible waste to prevent resource loss. The criteria for projects addressing air and marine pollution are broadly defined and lack specific technical thresholds, but these projects are expected to reduce or avoid pollution without major environmental and social externalities. The issuer has communicated that the projects related to landfills will not be considered eligible under the framework.

## Clean transportation

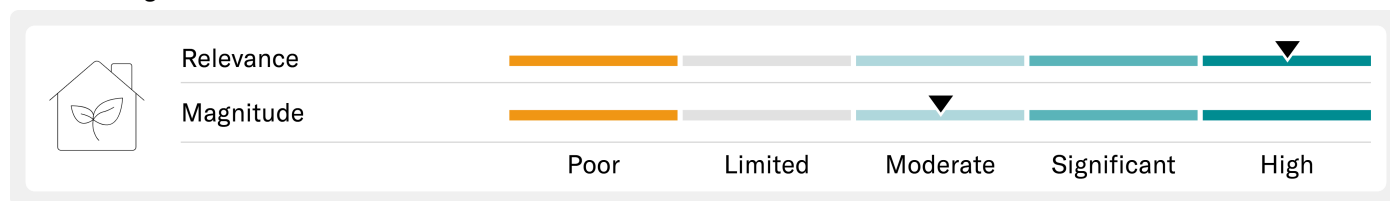


The relevance of the financed projects under this category to address climate change mitigation is high for the issuer, sector and on a global scale. Capital investments in supporting the electrification of transportation sector by increasing the uptake of zero emission vehicles and scaling up zero and low emissions fuels for the hard-to-abate shipping sector are highly pertinent to support the decarbonization of the broader transportation sector. Transportation sector was responsible for 23% of global carbon emissions<sup>5</sup> and was responsible for around 19% of total emissions in Japan in 2024<sup>6</sup>.

The financed projects under this category are expected to have a significant impact on reducing GHG emissions from the transportation sector. Financing road and rail transport with zero emissions vehicles is considered to be the best available technologies, with minimal negative externalities. For freight rail, projects where fossil fuels account for more than 25% of the total freight volume (tkm) will be excluded from financing, in accordance with the CBI criteria. For maritime transportation projects, both zero-emission vessels and low-carbon vessels will be considered eligible. The eligibility criteria for low-carbon vessels are clearly defined: only electrified ships meeting the defined thresholds, those powered by green hydrogen or green ammonia, as well as biofuels meeting the criteria defined under the 'Renewable Energy' category of this framework, will be considered eligible. However, on a stand-alone basis, projects related to low-carbon vessels would achieve a moderate magnitude score due to the lack of visibility around the percentage of utilization of low-carbon fuels. For refueling projects, the financed projects are expected to contribute to the decarbonization of maritime transportation by promoting low-carbon fueling. In addition, for ammonia refueling, the issuer commits to evaluating

mitigation measures to manage ammonia toxicity in fuel use and bunkering during the credit approval process. The projects related to the construction of ports will be excluded from financing.

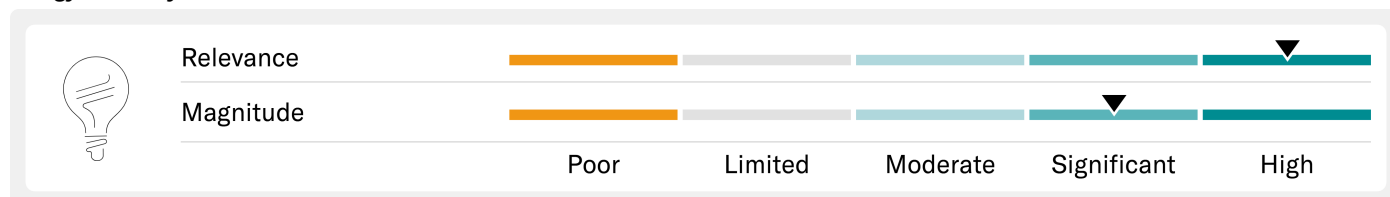
### Green buildings



Investing in energy efficient residential and non-residential buildings is highly relevant for addressing climate change, which is important for the issuer, sector and on a global scale. According to IEA, operational energy use of buildings account for 30% of global energy consumption and 26% of global energy-related emissions<sup>7</sup>. The reduction of CO2 emissions from real estates is also recognized as a fundamental pillar of Japan's national sustainability strategy, as outlined in the Clean Energy Strategy<sup>8</sup> and the Plan on Global Warming Countermeasures<sup>9</sup>.

The financed projects under this category are expected to have a moderate magnitude due to the absence of clear energy performance thresholds for all financed buildings. The issuer has indicated that most proceeds will be allocated to projects certified by the Japan Building-Housing Energy-efficiency Labeling System (BELS) and the Comprehensive Assessment System for Built Environment Efficiency (CASBEE). Although CASBEE is one of Japan's most stringent green building certifications, and BELS-certified buildings provide some insight into energy efficiency levels, there remains a lack of clarity regarding the actual energy performance of the eligible buildings. The issuer has communicated that the majority of the proceeds will be allocated to the acquisition and new construction of the buildings. We note that newly constructed buildings carry negative externalities, such as greater absolute energy consumption, GHG emissions and E&S risks associated with the construction phase, leading to a less positive impact than that of refurbishment activities. Such externalities will be mitigated to a certain extent as an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) will be conducted for all large-scale projects. Additionally, the issuer will be closely working with the real estate developers to reduce the embodied carbon emissions of the buildings.

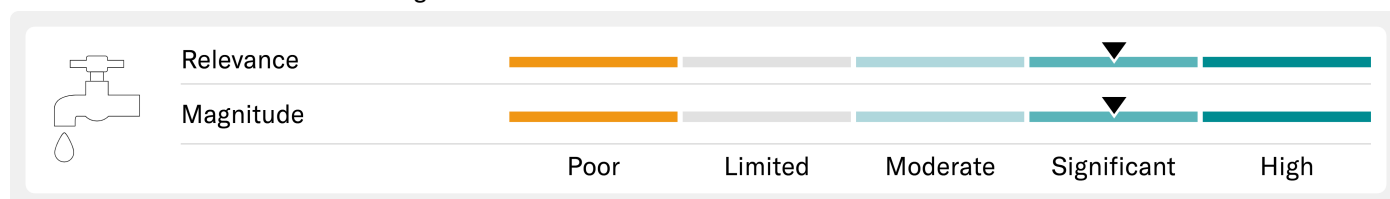
### Energy efficiency



The relevance of financed projects under this category to address climate change mitigation is high for the issuer, for the country and on a global scale. Globally, advancements in energy efficiency are pivotal for transitioning away from fossil fuels. Accelerating improvements in energy efficiency can account for over 70% of the projected decline in oil demand and 50% of the reduction in gas demand by 2030<sup>10</sup>. Enhancing energy efficiency in buildings is particularly pertinent, including in Japan, where power and lighting constitute approximately 43% of energy consumption in buildings. Japanese government has set a target to achieve 40% energy efficiency improvements by 2030<sup>11</sup>.

The financed projects under this category are expected to have a significant impact on reducing GHG emissions given that the financed projects will achieve at least 30% improvement in energy efficiency, in line with recognized market standard. In addition, the eligible projects will leverage proven technologies to enhance energy efficiency within buildings, such as LED lighting and HVAC systems. For projects involving energy-efficient equipment and appliances, the issuer will mandate the inclusion of energy efficiency assurance labels, such as ENERGY STAR, to qualify as eligible.

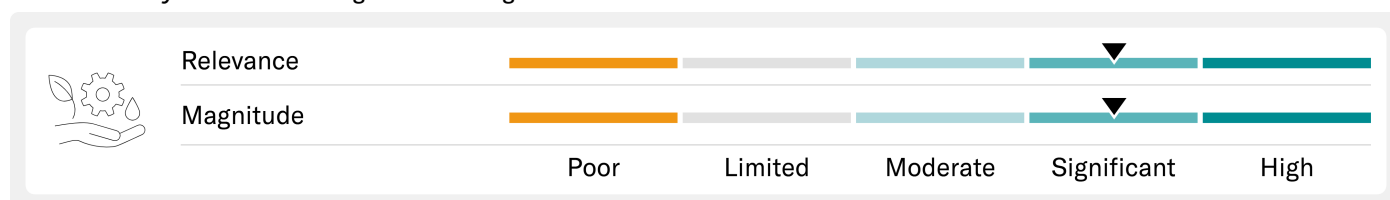
## Sustainable water and wastewater management



Financed projects under this category for addressing water and wastewater management issues are significantly relevant for the issuer. Water stress is a global concern, with over 733 million people reportedly living in countries experiencing high or critical levels of water stress<sup>12</sup>. However, the score reflects the lack of visibility regarding project locations, which limits our ability to ascertain whether these projects will be implemented in areas where such infrastructure is deficient. The category is also not considered to be the most material sustainability issue for the issuer considering Mizuho's relatively low exposure to the sector.

The financed projects under this category are expected to have a significant positive impact by providing water of acceptable quality while complying with relevant local water treatment regulations. In addition, the issuer has communicated that all projects must achieve at least a 20% improvement in energy efficiency and a 20% reduction in water leakage, in line with recognized market standards. Desalination projects are considered eligible under the framework, but there will be no allocation for the upcoming issuances. The eligibility criteria for desalination plants are clearly defined: projects must meet the threshold of 100g CO<sub>2</sub>e/kWh, which is broadly in line with CBI criteria. Regarding brine management, the issuer will ensure that projects incorporate waste management systems for responsible brine disposal; however, further details are not provided. While the issuer has not specified the types of technologies to be financed, it commits to excluding Integrated Water and Power Plants (IWPP) from financing. Additionally, there is a lack of clarity concerning the targeted energy efficiency of the desalination plants. On a stand-alone basis, desalination projects would achieve a moderate magnitude score.

## Environmentally sustainable management of living natural resources and land

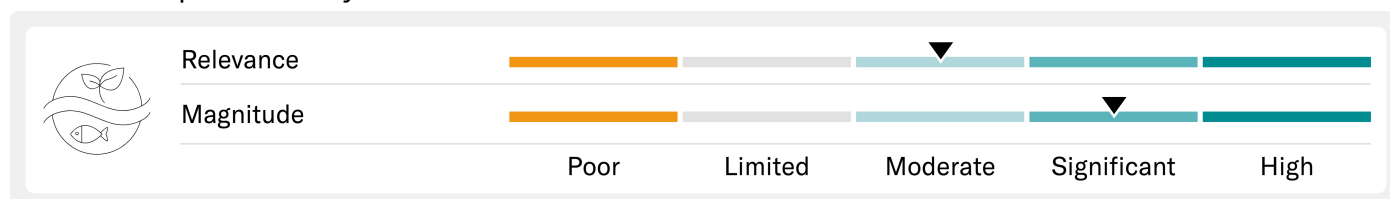


The relevance of financed projects under this category to address natural resources and land use issues is significant for the issuer. Deforestation, over farming and over fishing are globally relevant sustainability issue. The world lost nearly 16 million acres of forest in 2023<sup>13</sup> and the number of overfished stocks globally has tripled in a half century and one-third of the world's assessed fisheries are currently pushed beyond its biological limits<sup>14</sup>. However, the category is not considered to be the most material sustainability issue for the issuer, as it accounts for a very small portion of its loan portfolio, around 0.08% for agriculture and forestry sector and 0.01% for fishing sector<sup>15</sup>.

The financed projects under this category are expected to have significantly positive environmental impacts in terms of sustainable agriculture, sustainable forestry and sustainable fishery. The majority of these projects will obtain internationally recognized certifications across these sectors. Furthermore, the issuer has indicated that forest development projects aimed at generating carbon offsets will be deemed eligible; however, the developed carbon credits will not be utilized to offset Mizuho's own emissions.



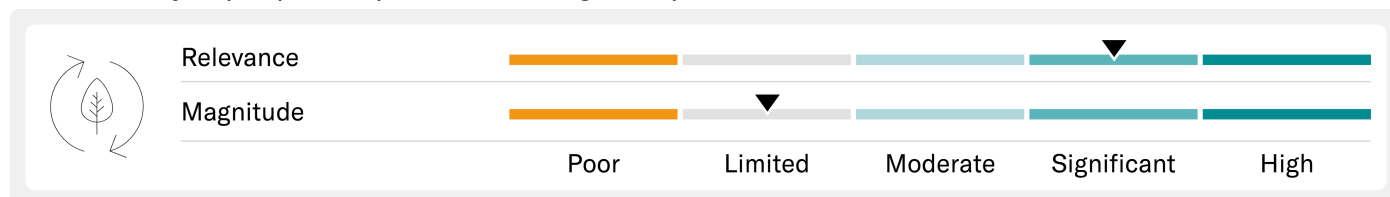
### Terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity conservation



The project category has moderate relevance overall, mainly because it is less relevant to commercial banks in the context of sustainable financing. Terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity conservation projects are less commercially viable, making them a lesser priority for the banking sector. Additionally, this category is not deemed a critical sustainability issue for Mizuho, given its relatively minimal exposure to sectors such as forestry, agriculture, and fishery.

The financed projects under this category are expected to have a significant positive impact. Although some details of the eligible projects are lacking, the category is expected to generate positive environmental impacts on both terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity. Sub-project focused on terrestrial biodiversity conservation are expected to positively impact through the preservation or restoration of valuable natural habitats and urban biodiversity, however, additional details about the projects such as targeted species would further clarify the extent of these positive impacts. For marine biodiversity conservation, the issuer has indicated that projects aimed at eliminating invasive plants and improving water quality in rivers, lakes, marshes, and wetlands will be included, which are expected to restore marine ecosystems.

### Circular economy adapted products, production technologies, and processes



The relevance of financed projects under this category to address climate change mitigation is significant for the issuer and local context. Investments supporting low carbon technologies including hydrogen, ammonia, carbon capture and storage (CCUS), and direct air capture (DAC) projects are relevant to the banking sector because of its critical role in address climate change and to support the decarbonization of hard-to-abate industries. Hydrogen and CCUS has been identified as a key technology to reduce emissions in different sectors across the economy, notably in heavy industries in the IEA net zero by 2050 scenario<sup>16</sup>. Similarly, Japan recognizes expanding investments in hydrogen and related substances<sup>17</sup> as well as CCUS to play a pivotal role in accelerating Japan's transition into low-carbon economy<sup>18</sup>. The issuer provided some visibility over the sectors subject to end-use of eligible technologies, which are considered to be relevant to certain extent. The issuer communicated the end-use sector for hydrogen include chemicals sector and steel sectors and commits to exclude hydrogen co-firing and ammonia co-firing from the eligible end-use. For CCUS, end-use sectors include cement, steel, chemicals as well as power but explicitly excludes coal fired power plants.

The financed projects under this category are expected to have a limited magnitude due to the higher allocation anticipated for blue hydrogen. While blue hydrogen is more commercially viable than green hydrogen especially in the short term, the production technology entails some carbon lock in concerns. The issuer has defined the projects with carbon content threshold of 3.4 kg-CO<sub>2</sub>e/kg-H<sub>2</sub> and 0.87kg-CO<sub>2</sub>e/kg-NH<sub>3</sub> to be eligible, which is in line with definition of low carbon hydrogen and ammonia respectively under Japan's Hydrogen Society Promotion Act<sup>19</sup>. While more stringent thresholds exist in the market, these thresholds are considered to be a relevant standard especially in the local context. For blue hydrogen as well as CCUS, a 90% or greater capture rate is required in line with IEA recommendations<sup>20</sup>, but more stringent thresholds exist in the market. For CCUS projects, enhanced oil recovery activities will be excluded. The eligibility criteria for DAC projects are broadly defined, including the energy source, and significant uncertainty remains due to the nascent stage of the technology.

### Additional contribution to sustainability considerations

We have not made an adjustment to the preliminary contribution to sustainability score based on additional considerations.

MHBK operates under Mizuho which has a robust due diligence process to identify and manage E&S risks associated with the financed projects. As a signatory of the Equator Principles, Mizuho is committed to reviewing and evaluating the environmental and social impacts of large-scale construction projects, ensuring that appropriate mitigation measures are implemented. Mizuho has also established a responsible financing and investment policy, which delineates guidelines for financing activities with significant environmental and social impacts, as well as those with high transition risks. Following the policy, Mizuho will assess the mitigation measures in place and regularly monitor the borrower's progress on its carbon transition plan. The policy explicitly prohibits some financing activities such as the construction of new coal-fired power plants and the expansion of existing ones.

The framework is coherent with the sustainability strategy of the issuer. MHBK's green deposit framework and the associated eligible categories are coherently aligned with the group's sustainability strategy, contributing to the achievement of its sustainable commitments and goals. Mizuho has set environmental targets to achieve carbon neutrality for its scope 1 and 2 emissions by 2030, and for its scope 3 emissions by 2050. The group is committed to achieving net zero emissions and has established investment and financing targets for key carbon-intensive sectors, including power, road transportation, shipping, and real estate. Furthermore, as part of its sustainability strategy and to facilitate Japan's shift to a low-carbon economy, the group also plans to invest 2 trillion yen in climate transition-enabling technologies including hydrogen, ammonia, and synthetic methane projects by 2030. Despite its current exposure to coal-fired power plants, Mizuho has set a goal to reduce its credit balance by 50% by 2030 and to exit entirely by 2040.

## Appendix 1 - Alignment with principles scorecard for Mizuho Bank's green deposit framework

Factor	Sub-factor	Component	Component score	Sub-factor score	Factor score
Use of proceeds	Clarity of the eligible categories	Nature of expenditure	A	Aligned	Aligned
		Definition of content, eligibility and exclusion criteria for nearly all categories	A		
		Location	A		
		BP: Definition of content, eligibility and exclusion criteria for all categories	No		
	Clarity of the objectives	Relevance of objectives to project categories for nearly all categories	A	Aligned	
		Coherence of project category objectives with standards for nearly all categories	A		
		BP: Objectives are defined, relevant and coherent for all categories	No		
	Clarity of expected benefits	Identification and relevance of expected benefits for nearly all categories	A	Aligned	
		Measurability of expected benefits for nearly all categories	A		
		BP: Relevant benefits are identified for all categories	No		
		BP: Benefits are measurable for all categories	No		
		BP: Disclosure of refinancing prior to issuance and in post-allocation reporting	Yes		
		BP: Commitment to communicate refinancing look-back period prior to issuance	Yes		
Process for project evaluation and selection	Transparency and clarity of the process for defining and monitoring eligible projects	Clarity of the process	A	Aligned	Aligned
		Disclosure of the process	A		
		Transparency of the environmental and social risk mitigation process	A		
		BP: Monitoring of continued project compliance	No		
Management of proceeds	Allocation and tracking of proceeds	Tracking of proceeds	A	Best practices	Best practices
		Periodic adjustment of proceeds to match allocations	A		
		Disclosure of the intended types of temporary placements of unallocated proceeds	A		
		BP: Disclosure of the proceeds management process	Yes		
		BP: Allocation period is 24 months or less	Yes		
Reporting	Reporting transparency	Reporting frequency	A	Aligned	Aligned
		Reporting duration	A		
		Report disclosure	A		
		Reporting exhaustivity	A		
		BP: Allocation reporting at least until full allocation of proceeds, and impact reporting until full bond maturity or loan payback	No		
		BP: Clarity and relevance of the indicators on the sustainability benefits	No		
		BP: Disclosure of reporting methodology and calculation assumptions	Yes		
		BP: Independent external auditor, or other third party, to verify the tracking and allocation of funds	Yes		
		BP: Independent impact assessment on environmental and social benefits	Yes		
Overall alignment with principles score:					Aligned

Legend: BP - Best practice, A - Aligned, PA - Partially aligned, NA - Not aligned

## Appendix 2 - Mapping eligible categories to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals

The nine eligible categories included in Mizuho Bank's framework are likely to contribute to 7 of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), namely:

UN SDG 17 Goals	Eligible Category	SDG Targets
GOAL 6: Clean Water and Sanitation	<i>Sustainable water and wastewater</i>	6.4: Increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable supply of freshwater to reduce water scarcity
GOAL 7: Affordable and Clean Energy	<i>Renewable energy</i>	7.2: Increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix
	<i>Energy efficiency</i>	7.3: Double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency
GOAL 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	<i>Green buildings</i>	9.4: Upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with all countries taking action
GOAL 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities	<i>Clean transportation</i>	11.2: Provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all
	<i>Pollution prevention and control</i>	11.6: Reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, with special attention to air quality and waste management
GOAL 13: Climate Action	<i>Circular economy adapted products, production technologies and processes</i>	
GOAL 14: Life Below Water	<i>Terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity</i>	14.2: Sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts
GOAL 15: Life on Land	<i>Environmentally sustainable management of living natural resource</i>	15.2: Promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests
		15.B: Mobilize resources to finance sustainable forest management and provide adequate incentives to emerging markets to advance such

The United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) mapping in this SPO considers the eligible project categories and associated sustainability objectives/benefits documented in the issuer's financing framework, as well as resources and guidelines from public institutions, such as the ICMA SDG Mapping Guidance and the UN SDG targets and indicators.

### Appendix 3 - Summary of eligible categories in Mizuho Bank's framework

Eligible Categories	Description	Sustainability Objectives	Impact Reporting Metrics
<b>Renewable Energy</b>	<p>Development, construction and operation of renewable energy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The development, construction and operation of renewable energy facilities which generate wind, solar, solar thermal, biomass (restricted to sustainable feedstock and/or waste sources), geothermal, and small hydro energy.</li> </ul> <p>Development and production of technologies and equipment used for the above projects</p> <p>Transmission and distribution of renewable energy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Development and construction of any of the following operational electric grids: (i) Projects for connecting renewable energy to power grids; or (ii) Where renewable power accounts for 90% or more of the power supported or integrated by the project, including:</li> <li>- Overground transmission/distribution lines; for example, overhead transmission lines, conductors, insulators, towers, and infrastructure assets such as buildings, fences, earth mats, and busbars.</li> <li>- Transmission lines on high-voltage and/or extra-high-voltage interconnected systems.</li> </ul> <p>Distributed assets that are intended to reduce the curtailment of renewable energy into the grid (grid components), including fuses, circuit breakers, disconnectors, reactors, capacitors, transformers, voltage regulators, switchgears.</p>	Climate change mitigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Tonnes of CO2 equivalent reduced/avoided per annum</li> <li>- Annual energy generation</li> </ul>
<b>Pollution Prevention and Control</b>	<p>Waste recycling and waste-to-energy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The development, construction, and operation of pollution prevention and control facilities, such as waste recycling and waste-to-energy power plants. The sources of energy will be household waste, commercial waste, or market waste which will not include plastics/rubber/tire-derived fuel (TDFs) to energy/fuel conversion, gas capture from operational landfills, and landfill gas capture for flaring.</li> </ul> <p>Reduction of air emissions</p> <p>Greenhouse gas control</p> <p>Ocean-friendly chemicals and plastics-related sectors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Projects to prevent plastic, chemical or pollutant runoff in areas connected to rivers or coastal water basins</li> </ul> <p>Sustainable shipping and port logistics sectors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Projects for the development, manufacturing, construction, upgrading, operation, and trading of technologies, products, infrastructure, and systems for the control and reduction of contaminated water, waste, and discharge by vessels, shipyards, and ports.</li> </ul>	Pollution prevention and control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Amount of waste recovered, reduced, or recycled</li> <li>- Reuse and recycling rates</li> <li>- Percentage of change in the amount of waste generated</li> <li>- Water pollution abatement in m3 and %</li> <li>- Air pollution abatement in m3 and %</li> </ul>
<b>Clean Transportation</b>	<p>Investments in passenger cars, mass transport, and other infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Projects to develop, operate, and upgrade public transportation facilities (non-fossil fuel based); infrastructure and technologies, including expansion and improvements of rail transport; non-motorized transport (such as bicycles); multi-modal transport; and manufacturing of electric vehicles.</li> </ul> <p>Maritime transport/port logistics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Projects for the production of new low-carbon or zero-carbon vessels powered by electricity with an average greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions intensity of less than 100g CO2e/kWh, biofuel, or green hydrogen/green ammonia.</li> <li>- Projects for the conversion of existing passenger and cargo vessels to low-carbon vessels as described above.</li> <li>- Projects for marine infrastructure, including refueling facilities using biofuels, hydrogen, ammonia, methanol, etc., as well as alternative maritime power, such as electrical outlets, electrical distribution and control systems.</li> </ul>	Climate change mitigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Tonnes of CO2 equivalent reduced/avoided per annum</li> <li>- Amount of air pollutants reduced</li> <li>- Total distance of infrastructure</li> </ul>

Eligible Categories	Description	Sustainability Objectives	Impact Reporting Metrics
<b>Green Buildings</b>	<p>Buildings which have received or will receive during the life of the green deposit at least one of the following classifications. Net proceeds of the green deposit may be allocated towards new and existing loans from Mizuho BK to eligible green buildings with certifications as defined below, including the ones owned by Japanese Real Estate Investment Trusts (J-REITs)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED): LEED Platinum or Gold</li> <li>- Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM): BREEAM Outstanding or Excellent</li> <li>- Comprehensive Assessment System for Built Environment Efficiency (CASBEE): CASBEE S Rank or A Rank</li> <li>- Development Bank of Japan (DBJ) Green Building Certification: DBJ Green Building 5 Star or 4 Star</li> <li>- Building-Housing Energy-efficiency Labelling System (BELS) (2016 version): BELS 5 Star or 4 Star</li> <li>- BELS (2024 version): Non-residential Level 4 or higher, Residential with renewable energy facilities Level 4 or higher, Residential without renewable energy facilities Level 3 or higher</li> <li>- Net Zero Energy Building ("ZEB"), Nearly ZEB, ZEB Ready, and ZEB Oriented / Net Zero Energy House ("ZEH"), Nearly ZEH, ZEH Ready, or ZEH Oriented (all of which represent a level of performance the same as or higher than BELS 5 Star)</li> <li>- A building that aligns with a regional proxy (numerical scale) determined by the Climate Bonds Initiative (CBI) for commercial buildings</li> </ul> <p>Building upgrades, including energy-efficiency investments and/or building retrofits in line with a low-carbon trajectory based on the duration of the bond, as set out in the Low Carbon Buildings Standard determined by the CBI (reduction of CO2 emissions by at least 30% compared to the baseline)</p>	Climate change mitigation	- Number and level of green building certifications acquired
<b>Energy Efficiency</b>	<p>End-user energy efficiency projects that result in a minimum 30% energy efficiency improvement including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Projects that have obtained a third-party certification (especially Energy Star) for environmental and energy performance in the purchase, installation and retrofitting of energy-efficient technologies, products or equipment that do not use motors or are powered by electricity (not by fossil fuels).</li> <li>- Projects for upgrading energy-efficient technologies, products, or hardware systems, such as fossil fuel-free LEDs, smart lighting solutions, sunlight controls, building management systems (BMS), air conditioning, and heating systems.</li> </ul>	Climate change mitigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Tonnes of CO2 equivalent reduced/avoided per annum</li> <li>- Annual energy savings</li> <li>- Number and types of environmental certifications obtained</li> <li>- Number of energy-saving equipment and products installed</li> </ul>
<b>Sustainable Water and Wastewater management</b>	<p>Projects which result in at least a 20% energy efficiency improvement or a 20% water efficiency improvement through reduced leakage</p> <p>Water supply</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Projects for the development, construction, acquisition, operation and upgrading of water supply infrastructure with water-saving effects.</li> <li>- Projects for the development, construction, acquisition, operation and renovation of desalination plants.</li> <li>- Projects for the development, manufacturing, and trading of products and technologies to increase supply of and access to potable/drinking water.</li> <li>- Projects for the development, manufacturing, and trading of technologies, equipment, and systems that reduce and/or monitor water footprints.</li> </ul> <p>Water sanitation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Projects for the development, construction, operation and upgrading of water treatment infrastructure.</li> <li>- Projects for the development and manufacturing of technologies, products and systems that enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of water treatment infrastructure.</li> </ul>	Pollution prevention and control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Annual water savings in m3 and %</li> <li>- Tonnes of CO2 equivalent reduced/ avoided per annum by water savings</li> <li>- Number of people benefiting from water management</li> </ul>

Eligible Categories	Description	Sustainability Objectives	Impact Reporting Metrics
<b>Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources and Land</b>	<p>Forest products: Growing and/or purchasing tied to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Products or projects certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) or the Program for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC).</li> </ul> <p>Agriculture: Growing and/or purchasing tied to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Products or projects certified by the Rainforest Alliance or certified USDA Organic by the US Department of Agriculture.</li> </ul> <p>Land preservation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Preservation and/or restoration of native forests and high-conservation value forests.</li> <li>- Soil remediation.</li> </ul> <p>Value chains for fisheries, aquaculture and seafood products</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Land-based aquaculture production.</li> <li>- Research, development, operation and trading related to cultivation of algae or other marine micro-organisms.</li> <li>- Fisheries and aquaculture that meet the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC), Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC), Marine Eco-Label Japan ("MEL") certification standards, or investments to meet the above standards.</li> <li>- Production and trading of marine products with MSC, ASC or MEL labels.</li> <li>- Distribution, processing, or retailing that meets the MSC, ASC, or MEL chain of custody standards, or investments to meet the above standards.</li> </ul>	Nature resource conservation	- Number and types of environmental certifications obtained
<b>Terrestrial and Aquatic Biodiversity Conservation</b>	<p>Biodiversity Conservation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conservation and/or restoration of biodiversity and valuable natural habitats.</li> <li>- Conservation and/or restoration of biodiversity in urban areas.</li> </ul> <p>Conservation and restoration of marine and other ecosystems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Development, operation, and trading of services, technologies, and systems for the conservation, improvement, and restoration of marine, coastal, and river ecosystems.</li> </ul>	Biodiversity conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Number and types of environmental certifications obtained</li> <li>- The area of land covered by the project and the rate of increase in the area of conservation</li> </ul>
<b>Circular Economy Adapted Products, Production Technologies, and Processes</b>	<p>Development, construction, and operation of hydrogen and ammonia supply chains (manufacturing, storage, transportation, and usage)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The carbon intensity standards for the manufacturing of hydrogen and ammonia are "well to gate": hydrogen at 3.4 kg-CO<sub>2</sub>e/kg-H<sub>2</sub> and ammonia at 0.87 kg-CO<sub>2</sub>e/kg-NH<sub>3</sub> (based on the requirements for low-carbon hydrogen as defined by Japan's Hydrogen Society Promotion Act). For the avoidance of doubt, "low-carbon hydrogen" includes hydrogen/ammonia produced via electrolysis from renewable energy and hydrogen/ammonia produced via steam methane reforming coupled with carbon capture utilization and storage (CCUS).</li> </ul> <p>Development and production of technologies and equipment used for the above projects</p> <p>Development of technologies and construction and operation of facilities in relation to direct air capture (DAC), CCUS, or transportation of captured CO<sub>2</sub>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Only projects with capture efficiency of 90% or higher are eligible. Projects for the purpose of enhanced oil recovery are excluded.</li> <li>- Development and production of technologies and equipment used for the above projects.</li> </ul>	Climate change mitigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent reduced/avoided per annum</li> <li>- Annual energy generation</li> <li>- Number of DAC/CCUS projects supported and associated annual GHG emissions stored (tCO<sub>2</sub>e)</li> </ul>



## Endnotes

- 1 Point-in-time assessment is applicable only on date of assignment or update.
- 2 Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, [7th Strategic Energy Plan](#), February 2025
- 3 International Energy Agency, [Net Zero by 2050](#), accessed April 2025
- 4 UN Environment Programme, [Global Waste Management Outlook 2024](#), February 2024
- 5 International Energy Agency, [Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Energy Data](#), accessed April 2025
- 6 Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, [CO2 emissions from transportation sector](#), April 2024
- 7 International Energy Agency, [Buildings](#), accessed April 2025
- 8 Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry, May 2022
- 9 Ministry of Environment Plan for Global Warming Countermeasures, October 2021
- 10 International Energy Agency, [Energy Efficiency 2024](#), accessed April 2025
- 11 Agency for Natural Resources and Energy, accessed April 2025
- 12 United Nations, [Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all](#), accessed April 2025
- 13 WWF, [Deforestation and Forest Degradation](#), accessed April 2025
- 14 WWF, [Overfishing](#), accessed April 2025
- 15 Mizuho, [Integrated Report](#), accessed April 2025
- 16 International Energy Agency (IEA), [Net Zero Roadmap: A Global Pathway to Keep the 1.5°C Goal in Reach](#), September 2023
- 17 including hydrogen, ammonia, and synthetic methane
- 18 Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, [7th Strategic Energy Plan](#), February 2025
- 19 Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, [Cabinet approvals on the "Bill for the Act on Promotion of Supply and Utilization of Low-Carbon Hydrogen and its Derivatives for smooth Transition to a Decarbonized, Growth-Oriented Economic Structure" and the "Bill for the Act on Carbon Dioxide Storage Businessess"](#), February 2024
- 20 IEA, [Carbon Capture Utilisation and Storage](#), accessed April 2025



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