

Green finance market in Russia: current situation and the role of VEB.RF in its development



Russian green finance market: key actors and initiatives



Russian Government

- Paris Climate Agreement:
 - Russia ratified the agreement in 2019
 - In November 2020, the President signed a decree aiming at a 30% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in accordance with the Paris Climate Agreement by 2030 compared with 1990 levels
- National project "Ecology" total expected expenses \$50 bn over 6 years
- Green finance is a major part of Russia's Economic Recovery Plan ("The Russia Green Deal")

Important to align national priorities with internationally recognized definitions of green



Investors

- Global investors place a very strong and growing focus on ESG factors when making investment decisions: currently, \$40 trln of AuM are invested with ESG screening, and this amount has tripled in the last 8 years
- Global investors may be cautious when investing into green bonds in emerging markets (such as Russia)
- The demand for ESG instruments from Russian investors is currently limited – very few are ready to offer a greenium

Companies are currently not always aware of **national priorities** that the Government is willing to support



Russian companies

- Increasingly strong focus on ESG, including green projects
- 14 green bonds already issued by 6
 different issuers (despite green finance
 being a very new topic for the Russian market)
- Multiple Russian companies are already investing in green projects, with environmental impacts of such projects far exceeding minimum regulatory requirements

Ecologically responsible Russian companies may be nevertheless struggling with **demonstrating their green credentials** to the **investment community**

Initiatives aimed at connecting key market participants and launching the green finance market:

- National Taxonomy and Green Finance Guidelines
- Governmental Green Finance Taskforce consisting of ministries, other government entities, major banks, which will steer the development of the green finance market
- Green finance government support measures

Key milestones in launching of the Russian national green finance system



Government decree on the development of Green Finance system

- Decree signed on November 18th 2020
- VEB.RF was designated as Methodological Center
- National Green Finance
 Taskforce (consists of
 ministries, other government
 entities, major banks, expert
 community) to be set up. It
 will develop, introduce and
 co-ordinate government
 policies related to Green
 Finance



National Green Finance system design

- Methodology includes:
 National Taxonomy
 (including quantitative and qualitative criteria), Green
 Finance Guidelines,
 Verification Methodology
 and other documents that will define the system architecture
- VEB.RF will finalize a set of documents and introduce them to the National Green Finance Taskforce in the next several months



Green Finance government stimulus

- The National Taxonomy will be introduced to and, consequently, signed by the Government
- The Ministry of Economic Development will develop a roadmap with measures of Green Finance government support (Stimulus)



Launch of a fully functional National Green Finance system

- The national green finance system is expected to be launched by VEB.RF and properly functioning by mid 2021
- It will include an officially approved methodology and a list of approved verifiers
- Processes for receiving green status for financial instruments will be welldefined and transparent
- Stimulus will be linked with a green status of a financial instrument

November 2020

January 2021

May 2021 (estimated)

July 2021 (estimated)

Development of the Russian National Taxonomy based on international taxonomies and key government documents in Russia

Input documents





Climate Bonds **Taxonomy**

Green Bond

Principles

Russia



Taxonomy **Technical Report**



IDFC Green Finance Mapping Report



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Green Bond Endorsed **Project Catalogue**

National Projects of



Best available technology (NDT) quidebooks



documents in

Russia



Industrial development strategy for processing, recycling and neutralization of production and consumption waste for the period until 2030



National action plan for the first stage of adaptation to climate change for the period until 2022



Energy security strategy of Russia until 2035



Russia's economic recovery plan



Paris climate agreement (ratified by Russia in 2019)



Resulting taxonomy

Russian national taxonomy for green projects, including quantitative and qualitative criteria





