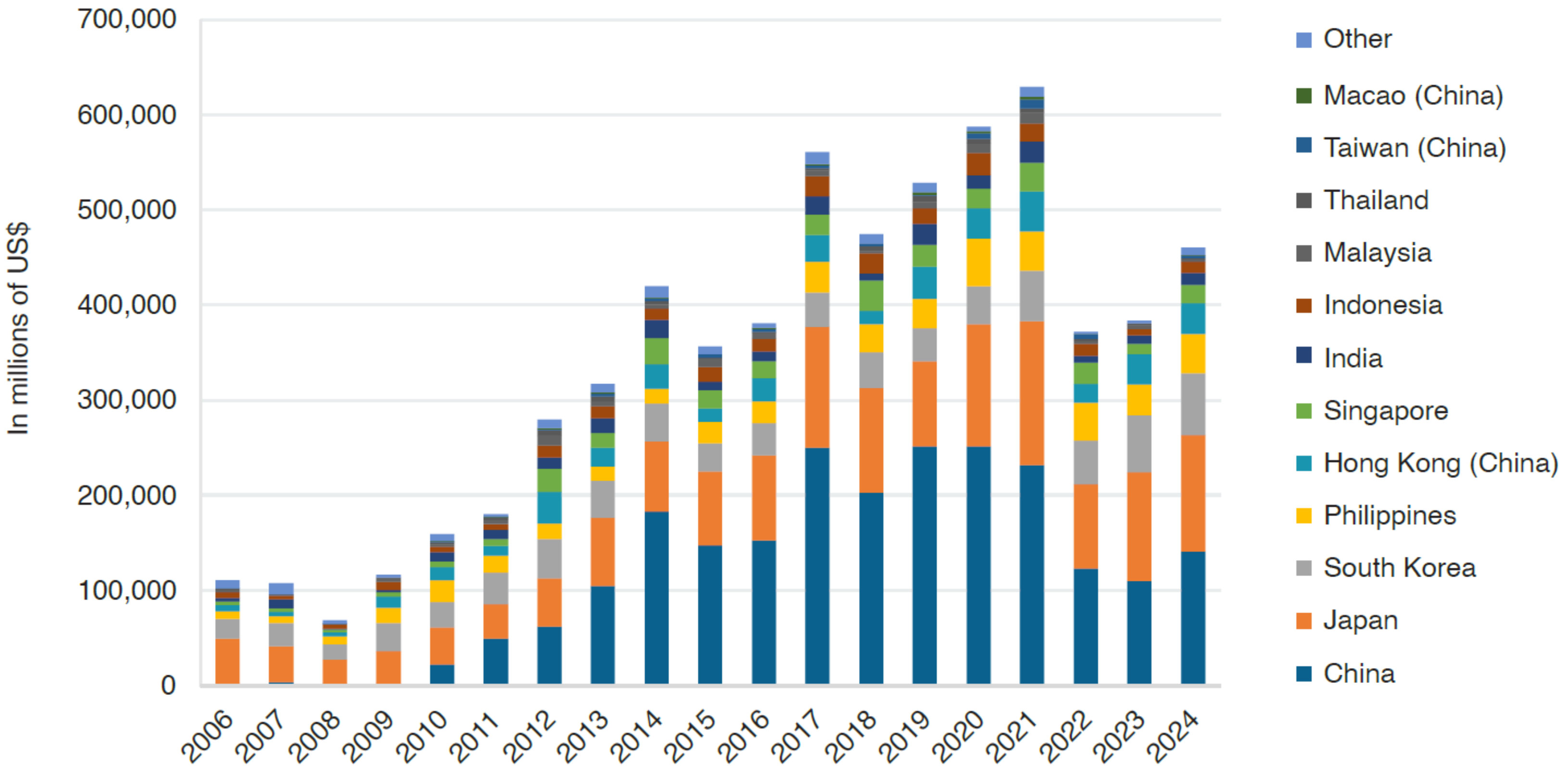
Global Bond Market Update

September 2025

ICMA
International Capital Market Association

International bond issuance in Asia



Other includes: Sri Lanka, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Pakistan, Vietnam, Laos, Maldives, Bangladesh and Cambodia

- ❑ International bond issuance from Asia totaled **USD460 billion in 2024** (+20% YoY).
- ❑ **Top three issuing countries** were China (31%), Japan (26%) and South Korea (14%).

Source: The Asian International Bond Markets: Issuance Trends and Dynamics (5th ed.), ICMA.

New ICMA guidance on nature-themed bonds

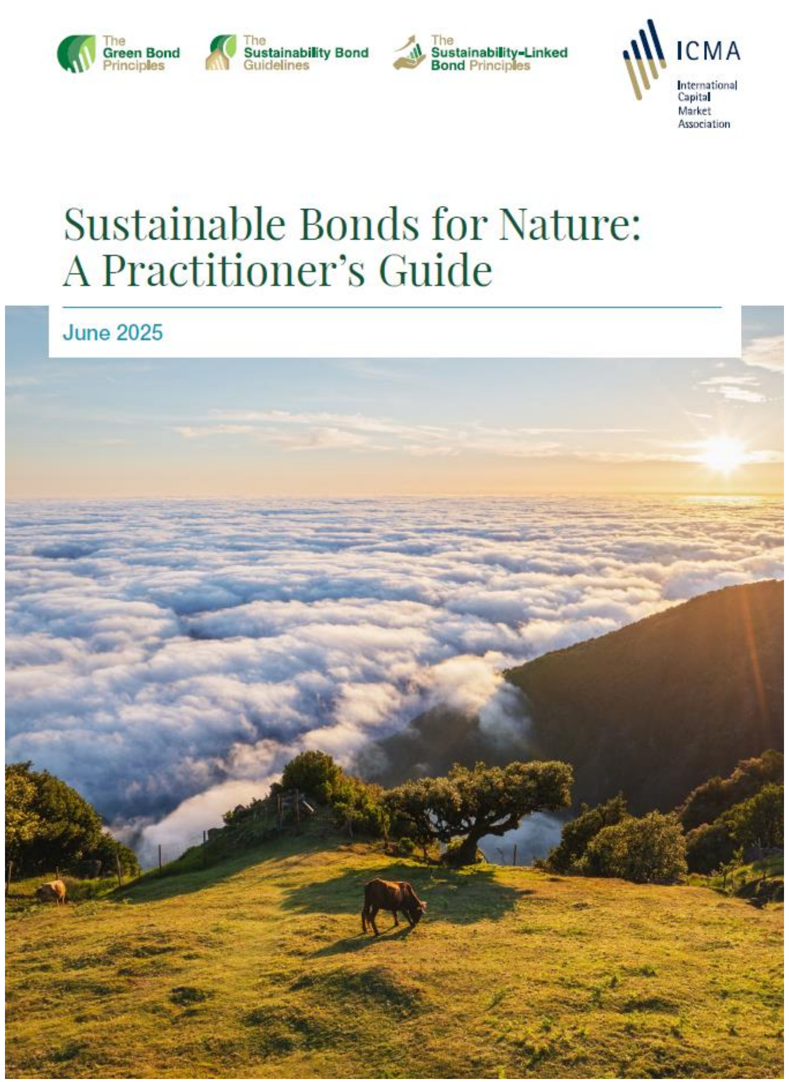
Introduction
- About this Guide
- Importance of nature
- Importance of bonds to finance nature

I. Use of proceeds for nature-themed bonds

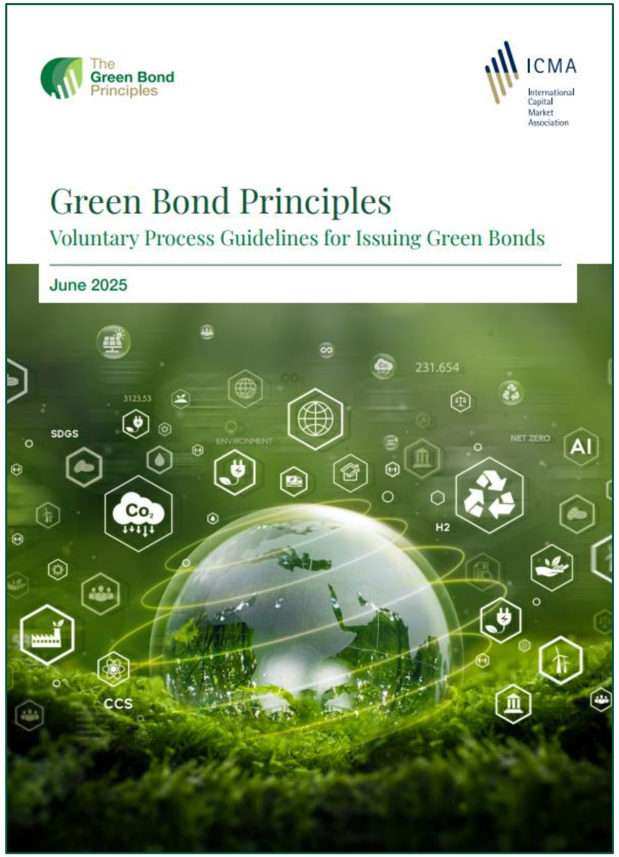
II. Impact Reporting

III. Sustainability-Linked Bonds with a Focus on Nature
- Selection of KPIs
- Calibration of Sustainability Performance Targets (SPTs)

Appendix: Indicative nature-related projects and impact reporting indicators

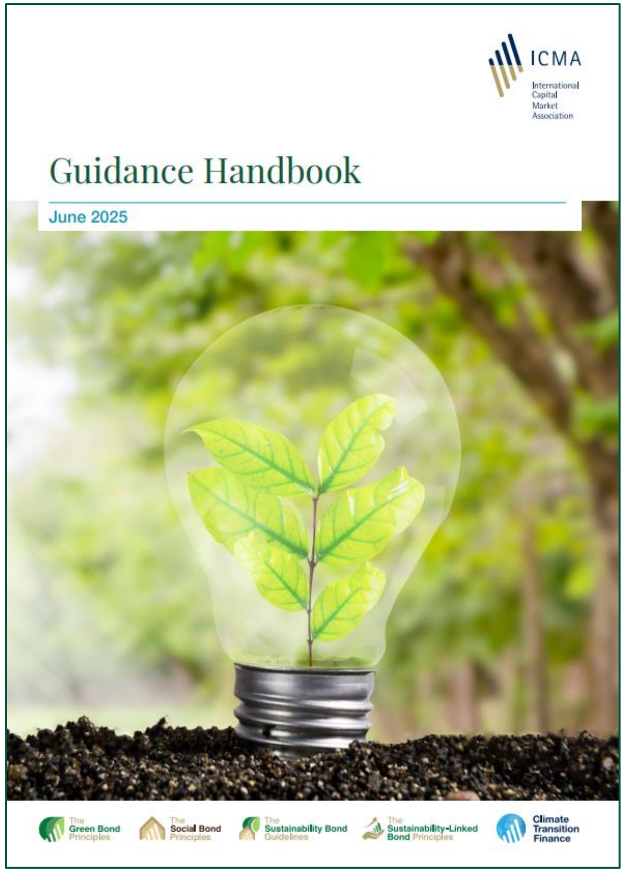


2025 Principles & guidance updates



Financing green enabling projects through green bonds

New Example Checklist and dedicated FAQs



Statement on eligibility of defence projects

ICMA Market Practice & Regulatory Policy

Primary markets

- **Hong Kong SFC:** consultation on market sounding guidelines and code on bookbuilding and placing requirements
- **MAS:** notice on business conduct requirements for corporate finance advisers and related FAQ
- **China NDRC:** Notice No.[2024]1037 streamlines medium to long-term foreign debt registration process for “high quality” issuers

Secondary markets

- **Shortening the settlement cycle to T+1:** ICMA active in the UK Taskforce on Accelerated Settlement and EU cross-industry taskforce
- **Pre-hedging:** ICMA response to IOSCO consultation (Feb 2025) and subsequent roundtable discussion

Repo and collateral markets

- **US Treasury clearing mandate:** cash transactions to come into scope from 31 Dec 2026; repo transactions from 30 Jun 2027 as per timeline
- **PBOC consultation on further opening up China’s repo market to offshore investors:** ICMA’s industry response (Feb 2024)
- **ICMA Global Repo and Collateral Forum:** publication of the GMRA Digital Assets Annex and ICMA guidance on sustainable sukuk

Sustainable finance

- **Code of conduct for ESG ratings and data products providers:** ICMA hosts the global, Hong Kong, and Singapore codes
- **ICMA Sustainable Finance and FinTech and Digitalisation Taskforce:** workshops on green bond tokenisation, AI for ESG scoring

FinTech and digitalisation

- **MAS Project Guardian:** ICMA leads fixed income workstream to explore settlement and custody arrangement for DLT-based debt securities
- **ICMA Artificial Intelligence in Capital Markets (AICM) Working Group:** ICMA response to IOSCO AICM consultation (Apr 2025)
- **Common Domain Model (CDM):** facilitating trade execution, clearing and settlement of repo, securities lending, bonds and derivatives
- **Bond Data Taxonomy (BDT):** ISO 20022 integration; adoption of the BDT for the HKSAR Government’s digital green bond (Feb 2024)

IOSCO-ICMA workshop on EM bond market development

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Key takeaways

1. Borrowers ultimately drive the market – from public to private, local to global.
2. Documentation, market standards and best practices should be carefully designed.
3. Bond markets require solid infrastructure – including CSDs, exchanges, and trading venues.
4. A broad investor base cultivates a sustainable market.
5. Liquidity provision is essential – and requires active intermediaries and collateral markets.

Contacts

ICMA in Asia Pacific

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