

Draft GREEN Action Task Force Programme of Work for the Period 2025-2026

Information Note:

This document outlines the main elements of the GREEN Action Task Force's Programme of Work for 2025-26. It builds on the implementation of the Programme of Work for the period 2023-2024. This document was prepared for discussion at the 2024 Annual Meeting of the GREEN Action Task Force (Chisinau, 16-17 April 2024). An earlier version benefitted from review and discussion by the GREEN Action Task Force Bureau at its meeting on 5 December 2023, and has been revised to reflect the Bureau members' views and guidance.

Draft version as of: 09 April 2024

Krzysztof MICHALAK: krzysztof.michalak@oecd.org

Takayoshi KATO: takayoshi.kato@oecd.org

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Introduction

The GREEN Action Task Force's main mission is to guide reform of environmental policies and promote greening of the economic development and environmental sustainability in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA).¹ The GREEN Action Task Force's origins, evolution and operations are presented in Annex A.

The main objectives of the Task Force, for which the OECD's Environment Directorate provides a secretariat, are to:

- support development of effective and efficient policies and projects that have real impact on the ground in terms of improving environmental performance, while creating opportunities for sustainable and inclusive growth;
- contribute to the development of human capital to support policy development and implementation;
- facilitate green investment and finance;
- understand country needs and respond to evolving trends and promote national and regional dialogue and exchange of good practice to respond to developing trends.

The Task Force, which has mobilised result-oriented financial and technical support to the region, responding to policy priorities set by each EECCA country, engaged national governments from EECCA, bilateral and multilateral development partners, including OECD countries, international organisations and Development Financial Institutions, as well as independent think tanks, business associations and civil society organisations.

Traditionally, the Environment Ministries from the EECCA countries have been the main partners in the Task Force. Since 2016, the representatives of the Ministries of Economy as well as other ministries such as finance, investment, agriculture and energy, have been increasingly engaged in the Task Force. Several projects were implemented specifically with the Ministries of Economy and participation of economic research institutions and think tanks. For example, activities promoting greening Small and Medium-Sized

¹ The EECCA region includes the following countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. Originally the Russian Federation and Belarus were part of the Task Force. Following the annexation of Crimea in 2014, the Russian Federation has not been invited to formally participate in the GREEN Action Task Force. In March 2022 the OECD Council decided to immediately suspend the participation of Russia and Belarus in OECD bodies. Following this decision, neither the Russian Federation nor Belarus are invited currently to participate in the work of the GREEN Action Task Force.

Enterprises (SMEs) have been implemented with the Ministries of Economy and SME Development Agencies in Azerbaijan, Georgia and Moldova.

A number of activities have been carried out in co-operation with Development Finance Institutions (DFIs) with the common aim to promote the enabling frameworks for, and accelerating, green and low carbon investment in the region. They included work on evaluating investment needs for achieving the countries' climate targets, reform of domestic financial systems and institutions, mobilising the capital markets and leveraging public and international support for green investment. Special sessions and events have been organised as part of the Task Force meetings with the participation of DFIs (e.g., EBRD, EIB, World Bank, ADB) on issues of common interest.

The Task Force has been given its mandate through a multilateral process called the "Environment for Europe" (EfE). In October 2022, the Environment Ministers from the UNECE region who gathered at the 9th EfE Ministerial Conference extended the mandate of the Task Force for the following five years to:

- carry out analyses, develop guidelines and best practices, and promote exchange of experience among EECCA and with OECD countries on key environmental policy and institutional reforms within various regional networks;
- identify ways for greening the economic recovery and growth, including more ambitious climate action that can also contribute to energy security and net-zero policies;
- implement in-country demonstration projects which can serve as models for green growth and environmental policy reform, and identifying potential for replication and scaling-up;
- work with development co-operation partners to mobilise financial and technical support for regional- and country-specific activities that strengthen institutional and human capacities for climate action, environmental management and promote green investments;
- co-operate with the non-governmental sectors (environmental citizens organisations as well as businesses and their representatives) active in the region to build public and political support for policy measures aimed at greening the economic growth;
- generate and share information on relevant support and projects delivered by participating governments and organisations.

Overall structure of the Programme of Work proposed for 2025-26

Many of the activities in the proposed work programme will be a continuation of projects for which funding (including through multi-year grants) has been received, approved or negotiated as of March 2024 (see Annex B). The document also proposes activities for which funding is sought, i.e., not "available" or not "under discussion" at this time.

This document presents the activities that would be implemented by the OECD, recognising that much of the OECD work would continue to be part of joint projects with other international organisations and partners.

It is proposed that the Task Force work programme for 2025-2026 builds on the structure for that of the current period 2023-24, and is organised around four mutually supportive Programme Areas:

1. Economy-wide, cross-sectoral policies for green growth and sustainable development.
2. Environmental policies for green growth: Climate change mitigation, air pollution, circular economy.
3. Water and ecosystems management, biodiversity protection and climate change adaptation.

4. Sustainable infrastructure, green investment and finance.

Specific activities under the 2025-26 Programme of Work

1. Activities, outlined below and organised by Programme Areas 1-4, are defined under the following categories, depending on progress and funding status:
 - A. **“Continuation”** for work streams that have already started under the work programme 2023-2024 and are funded,
 - B. **“New”** for activities that have already been scoped and are funded and are to be launched in 2025-2026, and
 - C. **“Under Discussion”** for those being scoped but for which the funding is not yet fully secured, as of March 2024.

1. Economy-wide, cross-sectoral policies for green growth and sustainable development

A. Continuation (Funds available)

Regional high-level policy dialogue through Annual Meetings of the GREEN Action Task Force

The Annual Meetings of the Task Force, which attract high-level participation of several Deputy Ministers from countries of the Eurasian region, will serve as an important mechanism for an annual review of progress, exchange of country experiences and country-level projects with other countries in a form of regional policy dialogue and building consensus on future priorities.

Regional mechanisms for the low-carbon, climate-resilient transformation of the energy-water-land nexus in Central Asia

In 2025 and 2026, the OECD-led components of the project “Regional mechanisms for the low-carbon, climate-resilient transformation of the energy-water-land nexus in Central Asia” envisage: an analysis of place-specific energy, water and land-use related risks and opportunities across the region (“Nexus Hotspot Analysis”); and financing mechanisms for water-energy coordination in the region. A series of high-level dialogues at the regional and national levels are also envisaged for the 2025-2026 period, aiming to expose the barriers to integrated management of energy, water and land at a national level and how these barriers can then impact regional co-operation in Central Asia.

In this context, national policy dialogues on water will be organised with a greater emphasis on cross-sectoral cooperation between water, energy and land-use. The dialogues aim to develop the case for improved economic and financial thinking around these issues and demonstrate the business case for cooperation with the view of to securing the political support for the follow-up activities identified below. They will be organised in co-operation with United Nations Economic Co-operation for Europe (UNECE), the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), Scientific Information Centre of the Interstate Commission for Water Coordination of Central Asia.

B. New (Funds available)

Building capacity to support Ukraine's alignment with OECD environmental and waste management instruments

Following the signature of the OECD-Ukraine Country Programme in June 2023, a new programme was launched “Building Capacity to support Ukraine’s alignment with OECD Environmental and Waste Management Instruments”. The programme that is implemented in the period 2024-2027 aims to familiarise the Ukrainian officials and experts with the requirements of the OECD Council legal instruments, work on the legal and regulatory reform to approximate the Ukrainian legislation with that of the OECD and build capacities to implement the provisions. The legal instruments under the programmes cover the following areas: public environmental expenditure management; environmental compliance assurance; environmental information and reporting, environmentally sound management of waste, strengthening water management, integrated pollution prevention and control, countering the illegal trade of pesticides; systematic investigation of existing chemicals and use of economic instruments in promoting the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

C. Under discussion (Funds not fully secured)

Greening practices in the mining sector

Mining minerals has been identified as a great potential source of wealth in EECCA countries. Governments in the region have been seeking to attract more investment under their economic diversification and industrialisation agendas. The global transition to clean energy, with forecasted fast-growing needs for certain minerals (“critical minerals” or “critical raw materials”) and development of supply chains and connectivity infrastructure securing access to these minerals, is giving new impetus to the development of mining activities in Eurasia. These opportunities, however, may create or exacerbate environmental risks, including but not limited to GHG emissions, air, soil and water pollution as well as biodiversity loss.²

During the consultations with stakeholders, the Task Force has identified interest in potential projects to support the development of greener practices in the mining sector in the Eurasia region. Building on previous and ongoing work, the discussions are ongoing to launch new stream of work that could possibly take an economy-wide approach to cover the following topics:

- Promoting decarbonisation and local emission reduction pathways in mining sectors, assessing sectoral regulatory frameworks’ alignment with climate and air pollution objectives and encouraging the adoption of innovative energy efficient and low-carbon technologies;
- Reducing water risks and managing the impacts of mining on water, promoting best practices in sustainable water use standards and adoption of water efficiency and circularity measures, developing better mining tailing management systems and reinforcing cross-sectoral water and mining co-ordination;
- Controlling, monitoring and limiting impacts on the biodiversity and promoting Nature-based Solutions (NbS), integrating biodiversity management principles at all stages of the mining cycle and assessing where NbS are more cost-effective than traditional grey infrastructural approaches.

² https://www.oecd.org/environment/outreach/20190413_Mining%20and%20Green%20Growth%20Final.pdf.

2. Environmental policies for green growth: Climate change mitigation, air pollution, circular economy

A. Continuation (Funds available)

Support to the decarbonisation of agribusiness and improve the conditions the transformation of trade-related agricultural value chains in the Eastern Partner countries

A new programme “Promoting Green Deal Readiness in the EU’s Eastern Partnership (EaP) Countries” (ProGRess), which started in 2024 and will continue until 2028, supports the EaP countries in improving the conditions for the transformation of EU trade-related agricultural and industrial value chains. The work will promote the introduction of innovative technologies, tools and methodologies that provide a significant impetus for a transition to greater sustainability, climate resilience and long-term GHG mitigation in agribusiness of the region, accompanied by framework conditions that improve implementation and sectoral acceptance. The work will also ensure that necessary changes in the EaP country trade-related agricultural and industrial value chains are accelerated to open access to the EU markets.

C. Under discussion (Funds not fully secured)

Strengthening environmental compliance promotion and enforcement

The Task Force is exploring participation in a new EU-funded Action “Recovery through a Circular Economy and Pollution Reduction in the Eastern Partnership countries (EU4Green Recovery East)”. This new programme is forecast to start in 2025 and while it would be hosted under Programme Area 3, below, work on environmental compliance promotion and enforcement completed under the 2023-24 PWB under the EU4Environment Green Economy Programme is expected to be included in this new Action. This new work will assist countries to reinforce and develop new environmental compliance promotion efforts, strengthen compliance monitoring (environmental inspections, ambient- and self-monitoring by enterprises) and optimise the non-compliance response mechanisms (including administrative and judiciary). The work will be implemented in co-operation with the EU IMPEL enforcement and compliance network.

3. Strengthening water and ecosystems management, biodiversity protection and climate change adaptation

A. Continuation (Funds available)

None

B. New (Funds available)

None

C. Under discussion (Funds not fully secured)

Support to pollution reduction with a focus on water as a critical resource for the economy

As a continuation of the work conducted under the 2023-2024 PWB, the Task Force is exploring participation in a new EU-funded Action “Recovery through a Circular Economy and Pollution Reduction in the Eastern Partnership countries (EU4Green Recovery East)”. This new programme is forecast to start

in 2025 and would focus on preserving human health, biodiversity and natural assets, and supporting circular economy, decarbonisation, climate neutrality and green growth. The OECD work on water and ecosystems management has a number of entry points to support Action implementation. For example, one component will support pollution reduction with a focus on water as a critical resource for the economy. This work could build upon the work on financing water which is currently being concluded as part of the EU4Environment Water and Data programme. The OECD would propose to partner with its existing partners for EU4Environment for the new Action, including UNECE, The Environment Agency Austria and International Office of Water, France. In addition, UNIDO would bring experience on circular economy from the EU4Environment Green Economy programme.

Biodiversity finance in the region of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia

The Task Force Work on biodiversity protection in the EECCA region that commenced in 2023 will continue. Building on the consultation with the Task Force members and an initial assessment of biodiversity loss drivers in Central Asia, both of which were conducted in 2023, the Task Force work on this topic will put a greater emphasis on the economics and finance aspects of biodiversity protection. Subject to further consultation with EECCA countries, potential work could include, further analysis of biodiversity hotspots in EECCA, assessment of challenges and opportunities for financing biodiversity protection, analysis and capacity development to support the mainstreaming of biodiversity protections into national policy processes in EECCA, promotion of transboundary co-operation in biodiversity protection. Links to proposals for a multi-donor funding mechanism for environmental goals in Central Asia, the Water-Energy-Land use Nexus project in Central Asia and other relevant activities under the GREEN Action Task Force will be explored.

Empowering Climate Action: Investing in Climate Information Services for Effective Adaptation and Biodiversity Protection

The Task Force contributed to an OECD-led submission for the International Climate Initiative (IKI) Thematic Call 2023. The submission addressed the thematic priority “Climate Information Services – Promotion of regional systems for evidence-based NAP processes to strengthen the resilience of people and ecosystems”. The call proposed Central Asia as a target region for this work and the Task Force partnered with the OECD Development Centre and the OECD hosted PARIS21 to prepare a proposal which leveraged the strengths of these three partners in terms of analytical capacity, international networks and access to data. The project aims to improve resilience to climate change by unlocking the necessary investment and systems to enhance decision makers’ and local populations’ capacity to use information about intersectional and gendered impacts of climate change, highlighting how national and regional actors can contribute to the climate adaptation and conservation of biodiversity. The application was submitted in early 2024 and if successful, it is possible that the early work could commence towards the end of the 2025-26 PWB.

4. Sustainable infrastructure, green investment and finance

A. Continuation (Funds available)

Sustainable Infrastructure

Throughout 2025, the Sustainable Infrastructure Programme in Asia (SIPA)³ will continue to assist Central Asian countries to transition towards cleaner energy, transport and industrial systems through better alignment of infrastructure investment projects with the Paris Agreement and SDGs. SIPA achieves this in co-operation with IDDRI, IISD, ITF, the University of Central Asia and UNDP, through four main levers:

- (1) Planning and asset-level evaluations: SIPA is enhancing upstream strategic planning by supporting the development and/or implementation of long-term low-emission development strategies in Kazakhstan, Mongolia and Uzbekistan. SIPA is also improving institutional processes and capacities for long-term infrastructure planning and strengthening capacity to develop asset-level sustainability assessments on strategic infrastructure projects to align short-term decisions with long-term climate goals. SIPA has delivered two pilot asset-level assessments of infrastructure projects in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan; a pilot assessment in Mongolia will be conducted in 2025. A specific workstream will focus on strengthening the resilience of infrastructure against climate change risks in Mongolia.
- (2) Framework conditions: SIPA is providing policy advice and capacity building to better align incentives with the transition to a low-carbon economy in key sectors such as energy, transport and industry. Energy activities have been focusing on awareness-raising about fossil fuel subsidies and need for their reform in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. On transport, a regional assessment of freight connectivity and decarbonisation covering the entire region of Central Asia is underway, to be completed by 2025. Industry activities are focusing on investment and regulatory frameworks underpinning selected low-carbon technology options, particularly renewable.
- (3) Green finance and responsible business conduct: Following the 2023 publication *Financing Uzbekistan's Green Transition*, SIPA is exploring opportunities to deliver analysis on a selected green finance instrument (e.g., thematic bonds, transition bonds) in Mongolia over the course of 2024 and 2025. SIPA is also preparing a policy brief on the linkages between responsible business conduct and sustainable infrastructure development.
- (4) Regional peer learning and exchange: The SIPA Regional Knowledge Network for Central Asia, coordinated in cooperation with the University of Central Asia (UCA), will continue organising targeted webinars on sustainable infrastructure-related topics, and the 2024 and 2025 SIPA Summer Schools will continue to bring together representatives of all Central Asian countries for intensive sessions of capacity building, peer learning and productive exchange. For more information on UCA's activities under SIPA, see <https://sipa-centralasia.org/>.

Building on SIPA's achievements, further work on sustainable, low-carbon and resilient infrastructure could be conducted beyond the end of the Programme in 2025, subject to funding. Countries covered by the Programme are expressing their interest for further work to support LEDS development, application of asset valuation methodologies to pilot infrastructure projects (e.g. key transport infrastructure projects related to the Middle Corridor), support to the development of low-carbon methodologies for decarbonising energy and industry systems (e.g. renewable hydrogen and CCUS), and green finance for sustainable infrastructure, including dedicated mechanisms targeting SME projects. Furthermore, countries covered

³ SIPA supports countries in Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, as well as Mongolia from the broader Eurasian region) and in Southeast Asia (Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand).

under the regional pillar only have expressed their interest in bilateral work to support their national green infrastructure agendas.

Mobilising public and private resources for green finance

Building on the programme “Promoting Green Deal Readiness in the EU’s Eastern Partnership (EaP) Countries” (ProGRess) launched in 2024, the work in 2025-26 will support better access to financing options in the agribusiness and support the development of financing mechanisms and instruments. Good practices and expertise will be anchored in the institutional structures of the regional and national implementing partners and instruments involving for example national banks, development banks and public budgets in the EaP region.

The work will also continue reviewing national funding entities and businesses, providing evidence-based analysis and policy recommendations to enhance their capacity in appraisal and implementation of green projects as well as reduction of various project-related risks and transaction costs. Activities will include reviews of selected national public funding entities’ practices and support their capacities for providing and mobilising green finance, and the promotion of responsible business conduct among businesses in selected countries.

This work will also review approaches to blending public and private resources and leveraging private capital in a cost-effective way to help stimulate more demand for green investments. This will include analysis of the feasibility of establishing a special-purpose “green investment bank” or refocusing activities of existing public financial institutions and businesses to mobilise private investment in green infrastructure.

Building credible regulatory frameworks for green financing in line with EU norms and diversification and scaling up green bond issuance in the EaP countries

The main objective of this work which will be implemented as part of the EU-funded “Decarbonisation and Climate Resilience in the Eastern Partnership (EaP) (EU4ClimateResilience)” project will support the EaP countries to strengthen their capacity to raise funds for green investments by making use of the capital markets and redirecting domestic financial flows towards sustainability, with a focus on the green bond markets. This will be done by the provision of further policy analysis and in-depth regulatory reviews, trainings and capacity-building events, aimed at supporting governmental stakeholders and policy dialogues with interested investors.

These dialogues, events and trainings will be held at both country and regional level. The work will target the full spectrum of actors involved in greening debt capital markets in the EaP region. These include government officials (at national and local/municipal levels) and market regulators, potential issuers (financial, corporate, municipal) and investors (both domestic and international) interested to invest in the region. The work will be carried out by the OECD in consultation and, as appropriate, in coordination with a number of international partners, e.g., the European Commission, financial institutions (e.g., ADB, EBRD, EIB, KfW, World Bank) relevant organisations (e.g., GIZ, International Capital Market Association or Climate Bonds Initiative) and also domestic institutions in the EaP countries which will be identified during the first months of implementation.

This work will complement and deepen some of the work that is envisaged to be implemented under ProGRess Project. While the work on green finance under ProGRess is broader in scope, as it will involve working with both public and private financiers and will look at different financial sources and instruments, it will also seek synergies (such as drawing lessons learned and exchange of experience) with this EU4ClimateResilience programme in its part on using green bond markets in raising finance for green projects particularly and to the extent possible in the agricultural and agri-business sectors, as these sectors are the focus of the ProGRess project. The work will build on the recent analysis carried out by the

OECD on ‘Greening Debt Capital Markets in the EaP Countries and in Kazakhstan in the context of the “European Union for Environment” programme.

Budgetary situation

The total indicative budget for the GREEN Action Task Force Work Programme (Areas 1-4) for the 2025-26 biennium is EUR 9.258M EUR. Table 1 provides the breakdown of funds available (6.448m EUR) and funds under consideration (2.810M EUR) for the full Programme of Work for 2023-24.

Table 1. Budgetary situation for Programme Areas 1-4 for 2025-2026

PROGRAMME AREA	Funds available (EUR k)	Funds under consideration (EUR k)
1. Economy-wide, cross-sectoral policies for green growth and sustainable development:	2.698	400
2. Environmental policies for green growth: Climate change mitigation, air pollution, circular economy	1.450	250
3. Water and ecosystems management, biodiversity protection and climate change adaptation:		1290
4. Sustainable infrastructure, green investment and finance:	2.300	870
TOTAL	6.448	2.810

The budgetary situation to support the Programme is considered sound for 2025-26, in particular due to multi-year programmes funded by Germany and the European Union (Annex B). In addition, Switzerland and Germany have continued to provide regular contributions on an annual basis. Nevertheless, efforts will be made to engage a wider range of the OECD countries in discussions about possible funding of the GREEN Action Task Force projects for which funds are not fully secured. An approach in which the fundraising is being done by the OECD together with international or domestic organisations will be continued as such projects allow for better co-ordination of support and maximising the respective strengths of implementing partners.

Annex A. GREEN Action Task Force - Its origins, evolution and operations

Origins and evolution

The Environmental Action Programme (EAP) for Central and Eastern Europe was adopted in 1993 by Environment Ministers in Lucerne, Switzerland, as part of the “Environment for Europe” (EfE) process after the fall of the Berlin Wall and the subsequent political changes in Europe. The EAP provided an analytical framework and guide for identifying the most serious environmental problems in Central and Eastern Europe and for developing realistic, efficient and cost-effective solutions to address priority problems while building on and reinforcing the market economy and democratic reforms in Central and Eastern Europe.

In Lucerne, Ministers established an inter-governmental Task Force to implement the EAP. The OECD was asked to provide the secretariat function to facilitate drawing upon policy analysis and recommendations prepared within OECD Directorates and Committees, dealing not only with environmental matters but also financial and enterprise affairs, public management, economics, regulatory reform and many others.

The accession of four Central European countries to the OECD during the period 1995-2000 and anticipated accession of several countries from the region to the EU in the 2000s led to the adjustment of the EAP Task Force’s geographical coverage. Since the 1998 Aarhus EfE Ministerial Conference, the Task Force’s main mission has been to guide reforms of environmental policies in the transition economies of twelve countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus, and Central Asia (EECCA), including Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

At the 8th EfE Ministerial Conference held in Batumi, Georgia, in 2016, Ministers welcomed the work of the EAP Task Force, and invited the OECD to continue its activities under its new name, the GRGreen Economy and ENvironment (GREEN) Action Programme Task Force, in co-operation with relevant partners.

In October 2022, the Environment Ministers who gathered at the 9th EfE Ministerial Conference extended the mandate of the Task Force and called for the continuation of its activities, including support to Ukraine.

Governance

The governance arrangements of the GREEN Action Task Force have been established, and adjusted, over the years. Currently, two Co-Chairs, one from an EECCA country and one from an OECD country, provide strategic guidance and work with the Secretariat.

The work of the Co-Chairs is supported by the Bureau, consisting also of Vice-Chairs, who are government representatives from both EECCA and OECD countries. The Bureau members are elected for each biennium by all Task Force participants, including interested intergovernmental organisations. The UNECE, UNEP and the European Commission are the ex officio members of the Bureau already. The Bureau usually meets at least once per year, between the Annual Meetings.

The OECD provides the Secretariat functions. Its task is to manage projects identified and agreed with members that provide financial support, in line with the biannual OECD Work Programmes, and report on

their implementation to the Task Force. The Secretariat works with the Task Force Co-chairs and the Bureau to shape the agenda of annual meetings and consult them on the general direction and priorities of the activities.

Annual Meetings of the Task Force provide an occasion for governments from EECCA and interested OECD member countries and organisations to discuss themes of relevance to green growth/ green economy and the environment in the EECCA countries. The aim of Annual Meetings is to share substantive findings of analysis, exchange experiences and lessons learned from relevant country-level and regional studies, projects and initiatives, mobilise further support and co-ordinate actions in the region. Efforts are made to hold Annual Meetings in alternating locations, between an OECD country (including OECD Headquarters in Paris) and an EECCA country.

Annex B. Brief descriptions of programmes contributing to the GREEN Action Task Force's Programme of Work

Regional mechanisms for the low-carbon, climate-resilient transformation of the energy-water-land nexus in Central Asia

This multi-year project for Central Asia aims to operationalise the energy, water, land-use nexus through economic and financial analytical work at regional and national levels in Central Asia. The project helps Central Asian countries identify nexus opportunities, demonstrate the business case for cross sectoral and transboundary co-operation, identify pilot investment projects, raise capacity and increase trust, creating the political momentum necessary to pave the way for the countries to improve planning processes and adopt a whole-of-government approach to addressing the nexus.

This Programme is funded by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection through the International Climate Initiative of Germany. The OECD, as the consortium lead, collaborates with UNECE, EBRD, SIC ICWC⁴ and UN Food Agriculture Organization, and in addition to substantive work, provides an overall co-ordination of various work streams under the project. The implementation period of the main phase of the project is 2024-2028.

Sustainable Infrastructure Programme in Asia (SIPA)

The Sustainable Infrastructure Programme in Asia (SIPA) helps selected Central and Southeast Asian countries scale up energy, transport and industry infrastructure investments, and shift them towards infrastructure projects consistent with low-emission, resilient development pathways and the Sustainable Development Goals. SIPA provides countries with capacity development and policy advice at different stages of the infrastructure investment cycle: i) long-term strategic planning and project-level evaluation, ii) aligning national policy frameworks for energy, transport and industry; iii) green finance and responsible business conduct; and iv) regional peer learning and exchange.

SIPA primarily focuses on Kazakhstan, Mongolia and Uzbekistan in Central Asia as well as Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand in Southeast Asia. Other countries in both regions benefit from SIPA's activities through regional policy dialogues and capacity building seminars, such as the SIPA Summer Schools in Central Asia and the meetings of the SEARP Regional Policy Network on Sustainable Infrastructure in Southeast Asia. SIPA also engages with stakeholders in China as a major centre of infrastructure investment as well as source of outward foreign investment in infrastructure.

This project is funded by the International Climate Initiative of the Germany's Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection. SIPA is implemented by a consortium of international and regional experts from: the International Transport Forum (ITF), Institut du développement durable et des relations internationales (IDDRI), International Institute for Sustainable

⁴ SIC ICWC: Scientific-Information Center of the Interstate Commission for Water Coordination of Central Asia.

Development (IISD), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF), University of Central Asia (UCA) and the OECD. The Programme implementation period is 2021-2025.

Promoting Green Deal Readiness in the EU Eastern Partner Countries (ProGRess)

The Project aims to support the countries of the Eastern Partnership (EaP) in their transition to a climate-friendly economy. The Project promotes the introduction of innovative technologies for sustainability, climate resilience and greenhouse gas reductions in agribusiness. This also includes driving digital change in these countries, such as e.g. a stronger digital link between government consulting services and research, as well as the development and implementation of digitization strategies for selected economic sectors. The implementation of green technologies in agriculture and agro-industry as well as green regulatory reforms also support the achievement of national climate targets and the implementation of the concept of "green recovery". The project will also aim to ensure that necessary changes in the EaP country trade-related agricultural and industrial value chains are accelerated so that EU market access for these sectors can be maintained.

The project is funded by the International Climate Initiative of the Germany's Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection. The Implementing Partners are: Deutsche Gesellschaft für internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in co-operation with the Regional Environmental Centre for the Caucasus (REC Caucasus), European Business Association (EBA) Moldova and Institute of Economics and Forecasting of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (IEF). This project implementation period is 2024-2028.

Decarbonisation and Climate Resilience in the Eastern Partnership (EaP) (EU4ClimateResilience)

The Overall Objective of the Action is support the EaP countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine in improving climate change and adaptation policies to achieve the mitigation and adaptation goals and targets under the Paris Agreement and related to bilateral agreements with the EU such as association agreements and the provisions included in the 'Joint Staff Working Document - Recovery, Resilience and Reform: post-2020 EaP priorities' that was endorsed at the EaP Summit in December 2021. This will be achieved inter alia by technical support for the NDC 2025 update, improving the regulatory framework as well as further improving the institutional capacities to update the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), elaborate and implement Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) systems and mainstream climate change into sectoral and regional policies.

The Action also acts on a local level by supporting the implementation of local climate adaptation projects, increasing the preparedness and resilience of cities and municipalities against short- and long-term climate risks. To mobilise additional sustainable investments, the introduction of innovative financial instruments such as green bonds will be supported. In Ukraine, the Action will address the reconstruction needs that resulted from Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine.

This EU4ClimateResilience is jointly co-financed by the European Union and the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV), and implemented by GIZ and OECD. The Action and the BMUV-funded project 'Promoting Green Deal Readiness in the Eastern Partnership Countries' (ProGRess) are complementary since ProGRess also aims to support EaP countries in the context of the EU Green Deal. This complementarity and implementation of both the Action and ProGRess by GIZ and OECD therefore reflects the Team Europe approach. This project implementation period is 2024-2027.

Building Capacity to support alignment of Ukraine with OECD Environmental and Waste Management Instruments

Activities will be implemented in the context of the four-year OECD Country Programme for Ukraine launched in June 2023. The Country Programme is the OECD's contribution to Ukraine's recovery and reform process and is being implemented with the financial support of Bulgaria, Czechia, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland and the USA.

The main objective of the environmental component of the OECD-Ukraine Country Programme is to identify areas for reform of Ukraine's existing environmental, waste and chemicals management policies and instruments, to conduct capacity building in support of Ukraine's alignment with and adherence to OECD environmental instruments, to identify synergies in support of implementation of Ukraine's Post-war Recovery and Reconstruction Plan, and to accelerate environmental aspects of Ukraine's EU integration requirements.

The outcomes will be an action plan to reform Ukraine's existing environmental, waste and chemicals management policies and instruments. The reform requirements will be linked towards adherence with relevant OECD environmental instruments and to promote implementation of Ukraine's Post-war Recovery and Reconstruction Plan and accelerate environmental aspects of Ukraine's EU integration requirements.

The work will be complemented by targeted capacity building activities for policy and regulatory reform. These activities will include targeted seminars to present the main features and requirements of selected OECD instruments, followed with training activities and technical support that will help the Ukrainian officials and experts to build their capacity to implement the requirements of the above-mentioned instruments and to launch their reform with a longer-term view of Ukraine's adherence. The programme implementation period is 2023-2027.