CRÉDIT AGRICOLE
CORPORATE & INVESTMENT BANK

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Press release

Crédit Agricole CIB issues inaugural Sustainability-Linked Loan financing Bond utilising innovative Sustainability-Linked Loan financing Bond Framework

On July 12th, 2024, Crédit Agricole CIB has issued its inaugural JPY 3 billion Sustainability-Linked Loan financing Bond (SLLB) using its Sustainability-Linked Loan financing Bond Framework[1]. The transaction has been achieved with Sumitomo Life Insurance Company.

This framework will be further used to finance and refinance a portfolio of Sustainability-Linked Loans (SLLs) in line with the Sustainability Linked Loan Principles.

The Framework promotes SLL best market practices by fully disclosing eligibility criteria

Leveraging its leading position in sustainable finance and global expertise in structuring SLL[2], Crédit Agricole CIB has developed its framework to foster best-in-class practices ensuring transparency in the evaluation and selection process of eligible SLLs. It is the first framework of the market which includes a pioneering and innovative "ESG Performance Index" listing all sectoral Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and related Sustainable Performance Targets (SPTs) used by eligible SLLs.

Investors can support companies that demonstrate strong climate commitments and effectively address ESG issues

Crédit Agricole CIB SLLB framework offers a unique opportunity for investors to support companies with ambitious climate commitments, aligned with a 1.5°C or well below 2°C trajectory and complemented by KPIs that address the most meaningful ESG issues.

The Framework is supported by an external review and leverages Crédit Agricole CIB's input on market guidelines

Crédit Agricole CIB has commissioned ISS-Corporate to review the framework's alignment with best market practices, as well as to assess the materiality and ambition of selected eligible KPIs and SPTs. ISS also evaluated the transactions' eligibility criteria against Crédit Agricole CIB's overall ESG profile and strategy.

Crédit Agricole CIB was also one of the coordinators of the ICMA joint-taskforce which led to the publication of the first ICMA Sustainability-Linked Loan Bond Guidelines in June 2024.[3]

Tanguy Claquin, Global Head of Sustainability, Crédit Agricole CIB, said, "This framework illustrates Crédit Agricole CIB's commitment to help clients on their decarbonisation journey, while providing investors with tools to encourage sustainability. The framework sets new standards for transparency and ambition in the SLL market, in line with the recent ICMA Sustainability-Linked Loan Bond guidelines, which we helped to coordinate. It's the first SLLB framework

[1] *Link here*
[2] *Source Refinitiv (2023): 1# agent in volume (Global, USDm) ; 1# agent in number of deals (Global) ; 2# lender in volume (Global, USDm) ; 1# lender in number of deal (Global)*
[3] *Link here*

where SLL eligibility criteria are disclosed in a detailed manner and reflects the Bank's continuous dedication to Sustainable Finance, as a useful tool for the global sustainability agenda."

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Press contacts:

UK – Joseph Walford +44 7721 127 438 / cacib@finelk.eu
Paris – Eric Pons +33 (0)6 08 63 03 20 / eric.pons@ca-cib.com
Paris – Cécile Di Palma +33 (0)6 15 71 59 83 / cecile.dipalma@ca-cib.com

About Crédit Agricole Corporate and Investment Bank (Crédit Agricole CIB)

Crédit Agricole CIB is the corporate and investment banking arm of Crédit Agricole Group, the 9th largest banking group worldwide in terms of 2023 balance sheet size (The Banker, July 2024). More than 9,500 employees across Europe, the Americas, Asia-Pacific, the Middle East and Africa support the Bank's clients, meeting their financial needs throughout the world. Crédit Agricole CIB offers its large corporate and institutional clients a range of products and services in capital markets activities, investment banking, structured finance, commercial banking and international trade. The Bank is committed to accompany its clients on the transition to the low carbon economy and to steer its activity toward net zero. In line with the strategy, Crédit Agricole CIB is a global leader in sustainable finance (co-founded the Equator Principles, co-authored the Green Bond Principles and Sustainability Linked Bond Principles).
For more information, please visit www.ca-cib.com