

# **Green Bond / Green Bond Programme**

# **Independent External Review Form**

# Section 1. Basic Information **Issuer name: Kenedix Office Investment Corporation** Green Bond ISIN or Issuer Green Bond Framework Name, if applicable: Independent External Review provider's name: Japan Credit Rating Agency, Ltd. Completion date of this form: January 9, 2019 Publication date of review publication: January 9, 2019 Section 2. **Review overview SCOPE OF REVIEW** The following may be used or adapted, where appropriate, to summarise the scope of the review. The review assessed the following elements and confirmed their alignment with the GBPs: $\boxtimes$ $\boxtimes$ Use of Proceeds **Process for Project Evaluation and Selection** XManagement of Proceeds Reporting **ROLE(S) OF INDEPENDENT EXTERNAL REVIEW PROVIDER** $\boxtimes$ **Second Party Opinion** ☐ Certification Verification $\boxtimes$ Scoring/Rating П Other (please specify): Note: In case of multiple reviews / different providers, please provide separate forms for each review.

Latest update: June 2018

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REVIEW and/or LINK TO FULL REVIEW** (if applicable)

The subject of the evaluation is the Green Bond Framework of the Investment Corporation and the 10th Unsecured Investment Corporation Bond to be issued by the Corporation. The proceeds will be allocated to refinance the funds for acquisition of the office building (Green Building).

The Asset Management Company has prepared a Green Bond Framework and defines "Green Qualified Assets" as properties that have acquired or are expected to acquire one of three stars or more of DBJ Green Building certification, B+ or more of CASBEE Real Estate Assessment Certification, and 3 stars or more of BELS assessment when acquiring a Green Bond Framework. JCR considers that the definition of Green Qualified Assets established by the Asset Management Company has an environmental improvement effect when viewed in light of the standards for obtaining the certification.

In addition, JCR confirmed that the assets subject to refinancing through investment corporation bonds that are scheduled to be issued are "Green Qualified Assets" as defined in the framework above. Based on the Environmental Performance Evaluation Report and interviews with the Asset Management Company, it has been confirmed that the environmental risk is fully considered when acquiring the assets to be refinanced this time and that there is no possibility of a serious negative impact on the environment that exceeds the environmental improvement effect. Based on the above, JCR evaluates the use of proceeds as green projects that are classified into "Green Buildings which obtain environmental certification" with the effects of reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

JCR has confirmed a robust management and operation system and high transparency, based on the following factors as part of the Group's sustainability efforts: it has established a system for ensuring its effective environmental measures such as a division which is in charge of acquiring and revising environmental certifications for the acquired properties; utilization of internal and external environmental experts and qualified personnel. Through these organizations, various environmental measures have been taken.

As a result, with regard to the Green Bond Framework and Investment Corporation Bonds subject to evaluation, JCR assigns "g1" for "Greenness Assessment (use of proceeds)" and "m1" for "Management/Management System and Transparency Assessment" based on the JCR Green Finance Evaluation Methodology. Consequently, JCR assigns "Green1" as an overall preliminary evaluation result to the bonds. Detailed evaluation results are discussed in detail in the next chapter.

The Framework and investment corporation bonds to be issued meet the standards for the Green Bond Principles and the items required by the Ministry of the Environment's Green Bond Guidelines.<sup>12</sup>

https://www.jcr.co.jp/en/greenfinance/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> ICMA(International Capital Market Association) Green Bond Principles 2018

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Ministry of the Environment Green Bond Guidelines 2017

## Section 3. Detailed review

Reviewers are encouraged to provide the information below to the extent possible and use the comment section to explain the scope of their review.

#### 1. USE OF PROCEEDS

#### **Overall comment on section** (if applicable):

# a. On the environmental improvement effects of the project

- i. 100% of proceeds will be for refinancing the loans for the acquisition of an asset that is classified as "Green Eligible Assets" which has environmental improvement effect.
- ii. The use of proceeds falls under the category of a green project defined in the Green Bond Principles or the Green Bond Guidelines of the Ministry of the Environment of Japan that are "energy efficient" or " green buildings which meet regional, national or internationally recognized standards or certifications".

#### b. Negative impact on Environment

JCR has confirmed that there are few possibilities of negative impact on the environment from the office buildings where the use of proceeds will be allocated.

### Use of proceeds categories as per GBP:

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Renewable energy		Energy efficiency
Pollution prevention and control		Environmentally sustainable management of living natural resources and land use
Terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity conservation		Clean transportation
Sustainable water and wastewater management		Climate change adaptation
Eco-efficient and/or circular economy adapted products, production technologies and processes	$\boxtimes$	Green buildings
Unknown at issuance but currently expected to conform with GBP categories, or other eligible areas not yet stated in GBPs		Other (please specify):

If applicable please specify the environmental taxonomy, if other than GBPs:

#### 2. PROCESS FOR PROJECT EVALUATION AND SELECTION

## **Overall comment on section** (if applicable):

Kenedix Office Investment Corporation have clear environmental goal, project selection criteria and process to determine the proceeds, which will be disseminated in the Amended Shelf Registration Statement and Shelf Registration Supplements for the issuance of the bonds and in the this Evaluation report composed by JCR to ensure transparency.

Evalu	ation and selection					
$\boxtimes$	Credentials on the issuer's environmental sustainability objectives	$\boxtimes$	Documented process to determine that projects fit within defined categories			
$\boxtimes$	Defined and transparent criteria for	$\boxtimes$	Documented process to identify and manage			
$\boxtimes$	projects eligible for Green Bond proceeds Summary criteria for project evaluation		potential ESG risks associated with the project Other (please specify):			
	and selection publicly available	Ц	Other (piedse speerjy).			
Infor	Information on Responsibilities and Accountability					
	Evaluation / Selection criteria subject to	$\boxtimes$	In-house assessment			
	external advice or verification Other (please specify):					
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2 1/1/	ANACEMENT OF PROCEEDS					
3. MANAGEMENT OF PROCEEDS						
Overall comment on section (if applicable): The proceeds of the bonds to be evaluated will be allocated for the refinancing of the two office buildings, KDX Kobayashi Doshomachi Building and the KDX Toranomon 1-chome Building, which has obtained highest grading in CASBEE Real Estate, a Japanese environment certification system, in full amount, and will not be used for any other purposes.						
	ing of proceeds:					
	Green Bond proceeds segregated or tracked by the issuer in an appropriate manner					
	Disclosure of intended types of temporary investment instruments for unallocated proceeds					
	Other (please specify):					
Addit	ional disclosure:					
	Allocations to future investments only		Allocations to both existing and future investments			
$\boxtimes$	Allocation to individual disbursements		Allocation to a portfolio of disbursements			
	Disclosure of portfolio balance of unallocated proceeds		Other (please specify):			
4. RE	PORTING					

# **Overall comment on section** (if applicable):

a. Reporting on proceeds allocation
 The proceeds of the bond will be immediately allocated to refinance the loans for the acquisition of KDX
 Kobayashi Doshomachi Building and the KDX Toranomon 1-chome Building, so it is not currently assumed that the reports on unallocated proceeds will be made during the term.

b. Impact reporting for environmental benefits The Number of Properties Eligible for Green Assets and Certification Total floor area of green eligible assets Energy consumption, water consumption, and CO2 2 emissions of Green Qualified Assets (limited to assets for which the Asset Management Company has energy management authority) Use of proceeds reporting: Project-by-project  $\boxtimes$ On a project portfolio basis П Linkage to individual bond(s) Other (please specify): Information reported: ☐ Allocated amounts XGreen Bond financed share of total investment  $\square$  Other (please specify): Frequency: Semi-annual  $\boxtimes$  Other (please specify): All the proceeds will be allocated to the projects promptly after issuing the bonds. Impact reporting: Project-by-project On a project portfolio basis Linkage to individual bond(s) Other (please specify): Frequency: Semi-annual  $\square$  Other (please specify): *Information reported (expected or ex-post):* ☐ GHG Emissions / Savings **Energy Savings** ☐ Decrease in water use  $\boxtimes$ Other ESG indicators (please specify): Energy consumption, water consumption, and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of Eligible Green Assets (limited to assets for which the Corporation has energy management authority) **Means of Disclosure** Information published in financial report Information published in sustainability report Information published in ad hoc  $\boxtimes$ Other (please specify): documents Information published in its website

Reporting reviewed

Where appropriate, please specify name and date of publication in the useful links section.

# **USEFUL LINKS** (e.g. to review provider methodology or credentials, to issuer's documentation, etc.) Kenedix Office Investment Corporation's initiatives for sustainability https://www.kdo-reit.com/en/feature/environment.html JCR's website about green bond evaluation methodology https://www.jcr.co.jp/en/greenfinance/ SPECIFY OTHER EXTERNAL REVIEWS AVAILABLE, IF APPROPRIATE Type(s) of Review provided: **Second Party Opinion** Certification П Verification Scoring/Rating Other (please specify): Review provider(s): Date of publication: Japan Credit Rating Agency, Ltd. January 9, 2019

# ABOUT ROLE(S) OF INDEPENDENT REVIEW PROVIDERS AS DEFINED BY THE GBP

- 1. Second Party Opinion: An institution with environmental expertise, that is independent from the issuer may issue a Second Party Opinion. The institution should be independent from the issuer's adviser for its Green Bond framework, or appropriate procedures, such as information barriers, will have been implemented within the institution to ensure the independence of the Second Party Opinion. It normally entails an assessment of the alignment with the Green Bond Principles. In particular, it can include an assessment of the issuer's overarching objectives, strategy, policy and/or processes relating to environmental sustainability, and an evaluation of the environmental features of the type of projects intended for the Use of Proceeds.
- 2. Verification: An issuer can obtain independent verification against a designated set of criteria, typically pertaining to business processes and/or environmental criteria. Verification may focus on alignment with internal or external standards or claims made by the issuer. Also, evaluation of the environmentally sustainable features of underlying assets may be termed verification and may reference external criteria. Assurance or attestation regarding an issuer's internal tracking method for use of proceeds, allocation of funds from Green Bond proceeds, statement of environmental impact or alignment of reporting with the GBP, may also be termed verification.
- 3. **Certification**: An issuer can have its Green Bond or associated Green Bond framework or Use of Proceeds certified against a recognised external green standard or label. A standard or label defines specific criteria, and alignment with such criteria is normally tested by qualified, accredited third parties, which may verify consistency with the certification criteria.
- 4. **Green Bond Scoring/Rating**: An issuer can have its Green Bond, associated Green Bond framework or a key feature such as Use of Proceeds evaluated or assessed by qualified third parties, such as specialised research providers or rating agencies, according to an established scoring/rating methodology. The output may include a focus on environmental performance data, the process relative to the GBP, or another benchmark, such as a 2-degree climate change scenario. Such scoring/rating is distinct from credit ratings, which may nonetheless reflect material environmental risks.