Vision Foundation
for Strategic Studies

Carbon Economy Roadmap & Pilot Carbon Credit Projects Among Iraq Federal Government and Kurdistan Region of Iraq

(Policy Proposal for COP30 Brazil)

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Statement of the Institution

The Vision Foundation for Strategic Studies is committed to advancing a comprehensive understanding and a prosperous and bright future for the Kurdistan Region and Iraq. This mission is pursued through rigorous research and analysis of regional challenges and crises, with the goal of identifying viable solutions. A core function of the Foundation is to actively contribute to national preservation and development by providing informed policy recommendations to decision-makers within the federal and Kurdistan Regional governments, the Parliament, the public, and the international community.

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Summary

The initiative includes an extensive strategy to develop a carbon economy in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI), which will be in accordance with Iraq's nationally determined contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement 2021 and other international standards to mitigate the impacts of climate change. The project is structured as a comprehensive strategy for post-conflict governance reform, economic diversification, peacebuilding, and environmental response. The Kurdistan Region is impacted by considerable climate vulnerabilities, including water scarcity, desertification, and energy insecurity, which are further exacerbated by the broader political and socio-economic instability in Iraq. The shift to a carbon economy affords an opportunity to enhance resilience, attract international climate financing, and diminish greenhouse gas emissions, while concurrently enhancing Iraq's position in multilateral negotiations.

The roadmap identifies three priority areas for high-impact intervention pilots:

1. Reducing methane emissions in the waste, gas, and oil sectors, providing swift and cost-effective solutions that align with the Global Methane Pledge.
2. The restoration of forests and rangelands plays a crucial role in enhancing biodiversity, reinforcing soil stability, and supporting the livelihoods of rural communities, in addition to increasing carbon sequestration.
3. Expansion of renewable energy, enhancement of energy diversification, assurance of supply security, and alignment with global clean energy transitions.

International findings indicate that successful carbon economies require robust measurement, reporting, and verification (MRV) systems; explicit legislation regarding carbon rights; and governance frameworks that encompass all stakeholders. KRICCA is suggested as the cornerstone of the region's carbon economy. KRICCA will manage a transparent carbon registry, execute comprehensive measurement, reporting, and verification systems, promote federal coordination, and forge international partnerships to adhere to global standards.

The trajectory towards 2030 commences with legal and regulatory reforms, methane mitigation strategies, forestry initiatives, and renewable energy pilot projects scheduled for 2025. Incorporating this into Iraq's national compliance frameworks would ensure alignment with both regional and federal commitments. With targeted international support and blended climate finance, the Kurdistan Region can model hydrocarbon-dependent economies' just and equitable transitions under fragility.

1. Context

Iraq ranks as the 5th most climate-vulnerable country globally. The Kurdistan Region encounters further complications due to conflict, demographic pressures, and vulnerable ecosystems. The establishment of a carbon economy presents an opportunity to decrease emissions, enhance resilience, and effectively fulfill Iraq's international commitments. Equitable distribution of carbon finance can enhance peacebuilding efforts and foster inclusive development.

2. Objectives

1. Establish E-governance and legal frameworks ensuring transparency and credibility.
2.Develop a Carbon Economy Roadmap that is regionally specific but nationally coherent accordance to (e.g. IPCC methodologies, GHG Protocol)
3. Launch pilot project(s), on methane, forestry, and renewable energy.
4. Mobilize blended finance through international markets and partnerships.

3. Comparative International Lessons

Peer countries provide lessons that highlight the foundation of successful carbon economies: strong MRV, legal clarity, and inclusive governance.

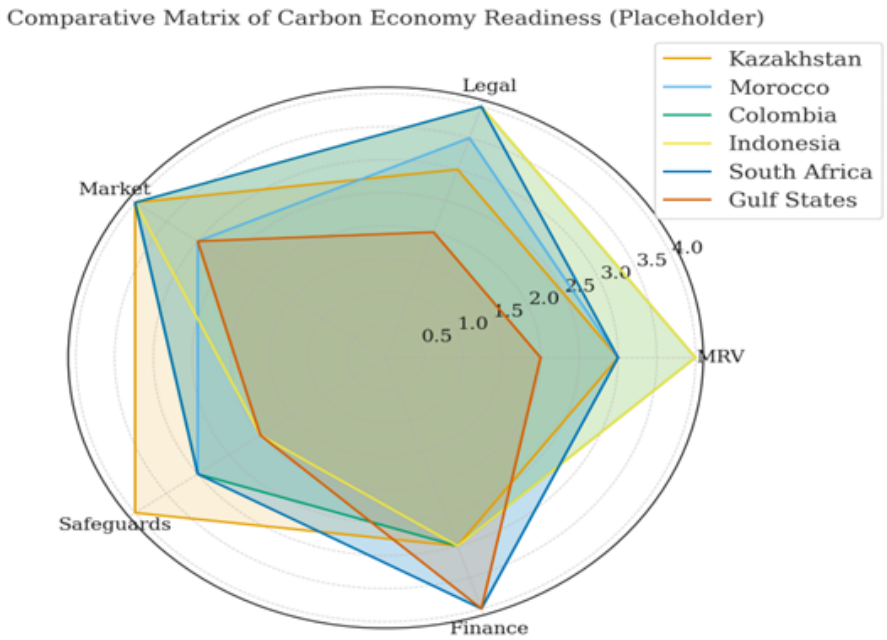

Figure 1. Comparative Matrix of International Lessons

This radar chart compares the readiness of Kazakhstan, Morocco, Colombia, Indonesia, South Africa, and the Gulf States across five dimensions MRV, legal clarity, market mechanisms, safeguards, and finance showing that while no jurisdiction excels uniformly, each offers lessons for Iraq, which requires a balanced, hybrid model that adapts international experience without reproducing weaknesses.

4. Governance & Institutional Architecture

This proposed Kurdistan Carbon & Climate Authority (KRICCA) will work in conjunction with relevant federal ministries to coordinate KRI's policies. A few of its responsibilities include managing registries, engaging stakeholders, and MRV. The agency will receive guidance from an advisory council that includes members from the business and public sectors as well as from academic institutions and non-governmental organizations.

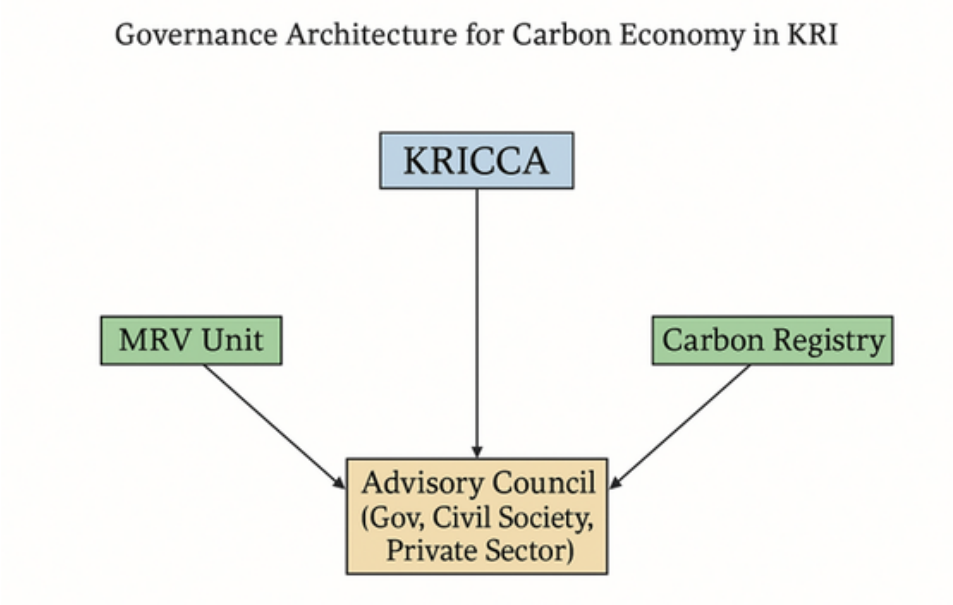

Figure 2. Governance Architecture for Carbon Economy in KRI

The diagram depicts KRICCA, an MRV Unit, a Carbon Registry, and a multi-stakeholder Advisory Council supervising the carbon economy in Iraq's Kurdistan Region to ensure transparency, coordination, and adherence to federal frameworks.

Key recommendations include:

- delineation of carbon rights within Iraq's constitutional framework as a part of natural recourse clause.
- Formulating advantageous revenue-sharing regulations to distribute funds to community development.
- Establishing methane reduction standards aligned with global best practices in accordance with UNEP guidelines.
- Facilitating Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs).
- Integrating safeguards in accordance with IFC Performance Standards.

5. Pilot Project Portfolio

Methane Capture (Oil & Gas + Landfills)

Parameter	Value (Placeholder)
Baseline Emissions (tCO2e/yr)	100,000
Reduction Potential (tCO2e/yr)	60,000
Revenue ($/yr)	900,000

Table 1. The baseline and reduction potential of methane capture in KRI show technical feasibility and cost-effective abatement. Methane has a high climate impact, and KRI supports global methane pledges.

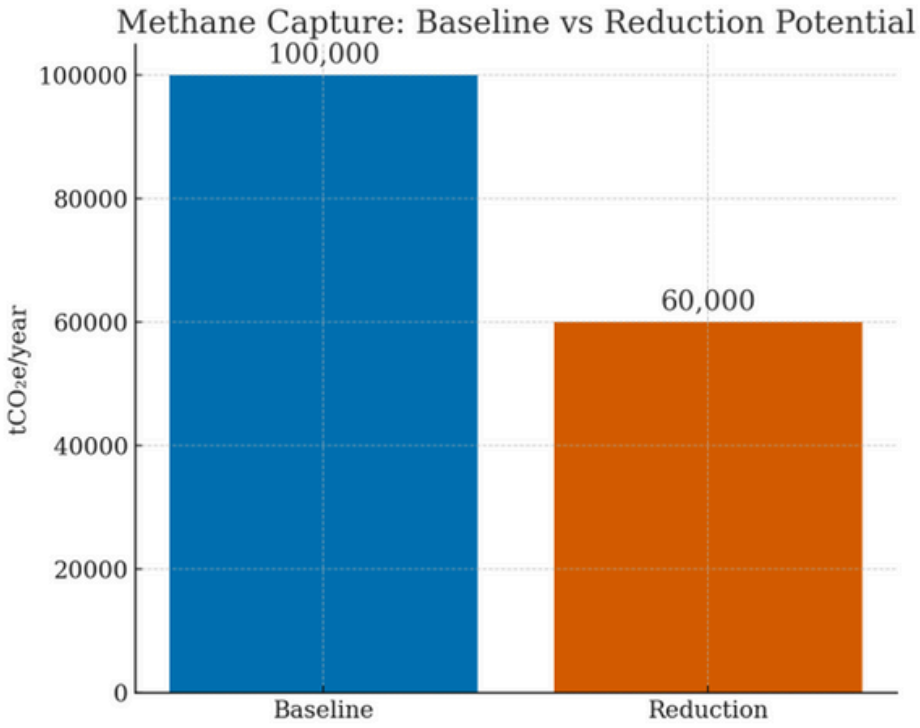

Figure 3. Pilot Project – Methane Capture: Baseline vs Reduction Potential

The baseline and reduction potential of methane capture in KRI show technical feasibility and cost-effective abatement. Methane has a high climate impact, and KRI supports global methane pledges.

Parameter	Value (Placeholder)
Area (ha)	40,000
Sequestration Potential (tCO2e/yr)	80,000
Revenue ($/yr)	1,000,000

Table 2. Demonstrates the feasibility and cost-effectiveness of reducing methane capture in KRI. Methane has a high climate impact, and KRI supports global methane pledges.

Forestry & Rangeland Restoration

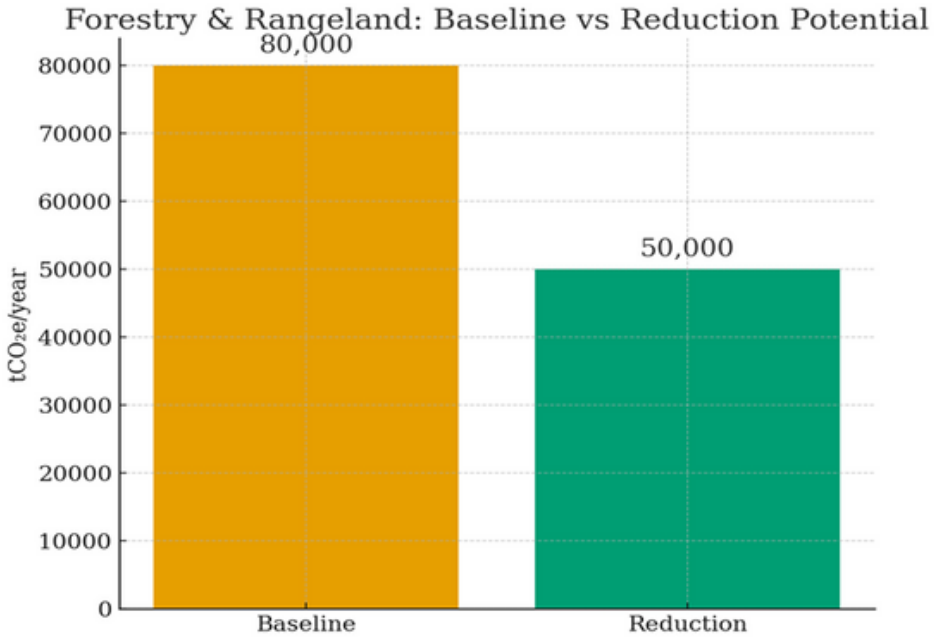

Figure 4. Pilot Project – Forestry & Rangeland: Baseline vs Reduction Potential

Forestry and rangeland restoration can reduce emissions by 50,000-80,000 tCO_2e/year through sustainable land management compared to baseline emissions.

Renewable Energy (Solar + Distributed)

Parameter	Value (Placeholder)
Capacity (MW)	100
Avoided Emissions (tCO2e/yr)	95,000–105,000
Revenue ($/yr)	1,000,000

Table 3. A 100 MW solar photovoltaic project in Kurdistan Region is projected to generate 140,000-150,000 MWh annually, reducing 95,000-105,000 tCO_2e annually. With projected revenues of $1 million, the project shows how renewables reduce emissions and diversify energy.

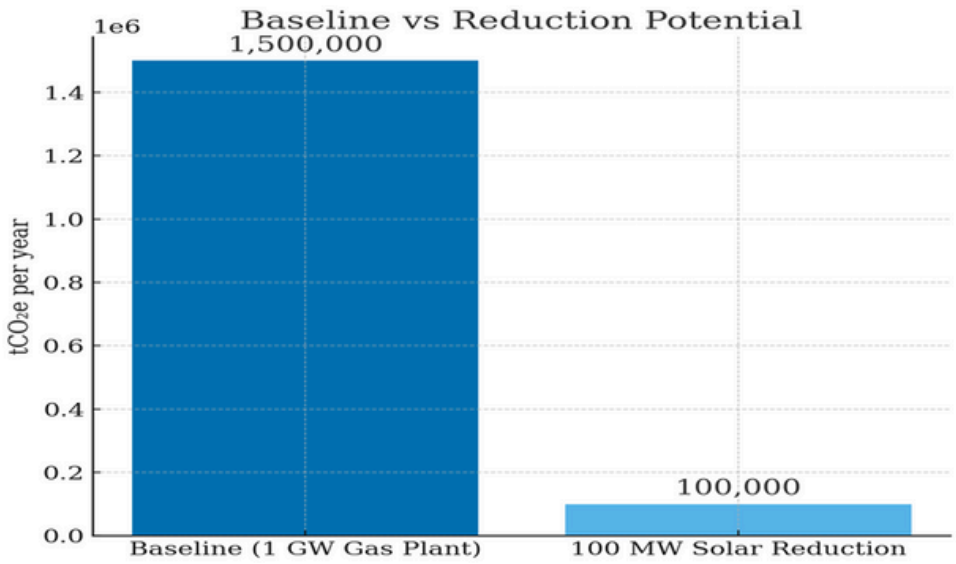

Figure 5. Pilot Project – Renewable Energy: Baseline vs Reduction Potential

A 100 MW solar photovoltaic installation can mitigate approximately 100,000 tCO_2e annually, compared to a 1.5 million tCO_2e/year baseline from a 1 GW natural gas plant. The findings demonstrate renewable deployment's role in energy transition and emission reduction.

6. Finance & Partnerships

A hybrid financing model will amalgamate investments from the private sector, development finance institutions, and climate funds, including the GCF and GEF. The reliability of monitoring, reporting, and verification (MRV) procedures will be ensured through collaboration with academic institutions and international verifiers.

7. Implementation Roadmap (2025–2030)

A hybrid financing model will amalgamate investments from the private sector, development finance institutions, and climate funds, including the GCF and GEF. The reliability of monitoring, reporting, and verification (MRV) procedures will be ensured through collaboration with academic institutions and international verifiers.

Year	Milestone
2025–26	Legal reforms Institutional framework, Initiation of pilot programs
2027–28	Initial credit issuance and jurisdictional scaling
2029–30	Integration with national compliance frameworks is essential.

Table 4. This table sequences Iraq carbon economy roadmap into three phases (2025–30). The approach showcases a structured governance model featuring quantifiable milestones and a strong alignment witIraq's national compliance frameworks.

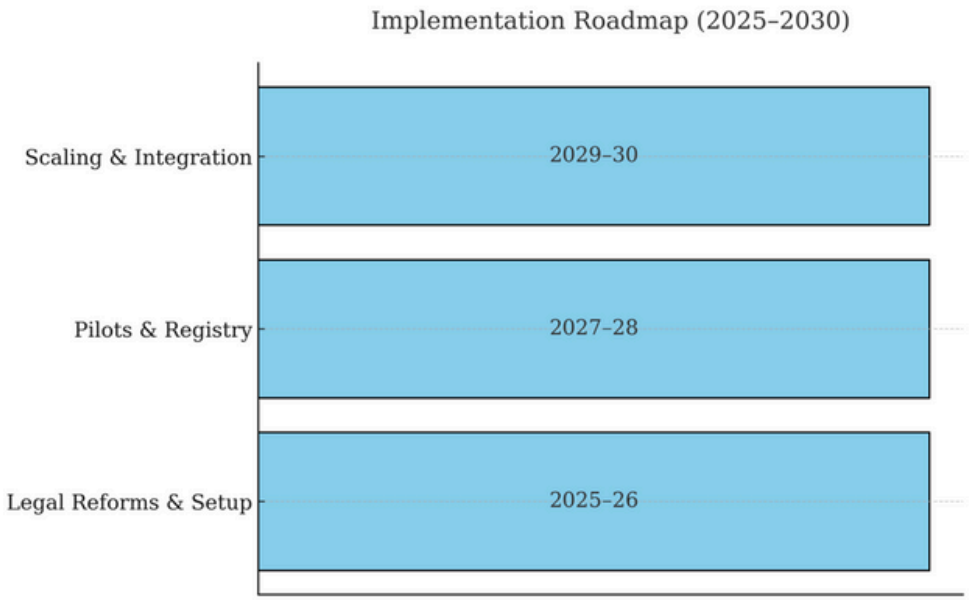

Figure 6. Implementation Roadmap (2025–2030)

The implementation of carbon economy is scheduled in phases: legal reforms from 2025 to 2026, followed by pilots and registry from 2027 to 2028, and scaling in accordance with Iraq's compliance framework from 2029

8. Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Approaches

1. Institutional risks: Mitigated through collaboration with the relevant federal government agency.
2. Technical risks: mitigated through prudent MRV and autonomous verification.
3. Social risks: The risks are mitigated by the implementation of effective dispute resolution mechanisms, collaborative processes that benefit all parties, and Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC).

9. Expected Outcomes & KPIs

1. Substantial decreases in emissions ($MtCO_2e$).
2. Significant carbon finance revenues.
3. Opportunities for employment are created through the shift to a green economy.
4. Improved E-governance institutions and heightened public awareness.
5. Enhanced social resilience through equitable revenue allocation.

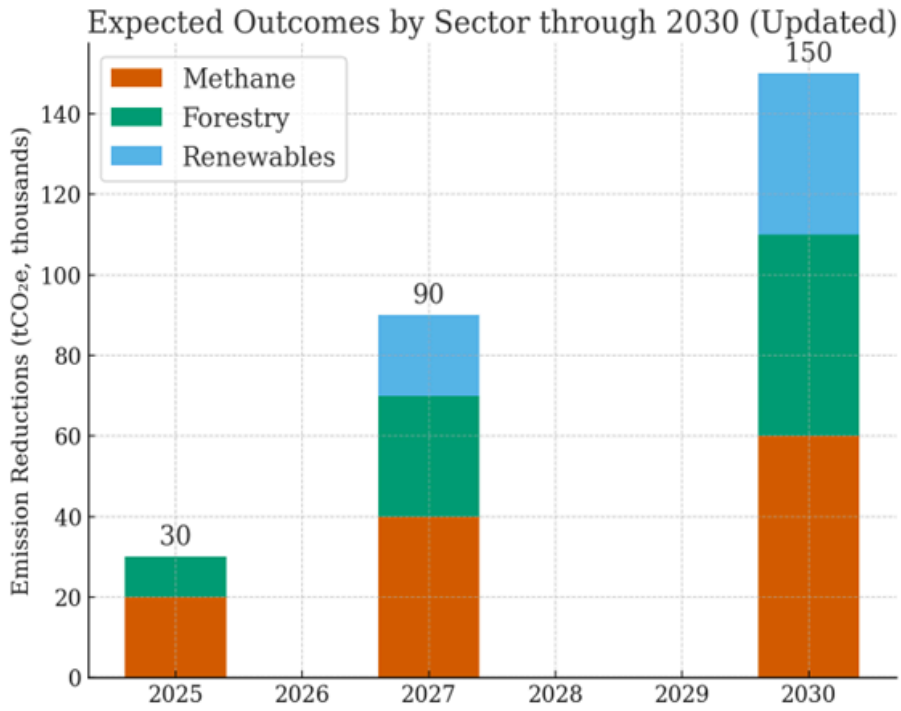

Figure 7. Expected Outcomes by Sector through 2030

This figure shows projected GHG reductions in the Kurdistan Region from methane abatement, forestry restoration, and renewable energy. Total mitigation rises from about 30,000 tCO_2e in 2025 to 150,000 tCO_2e in 2030.Sequential, complementary measures can advance a low-carbon pathway, as methane gains early and forestry and renewables afterward.

10. COP30 Deliverables

1. Policy brief and investor deck.
2. Pilot project(s) documentation.
3. Signed MoUs with offtakers and financiers.
4. Framework positioning Iraq and KRI as proactive climate actors.

Case Studies & International Initiatives

Case Study 1. The Green Belt Initiative in Erbil

The Green Belt Initiative is a major ecological restoration project in Iraq's Kurdistan Region capital to reduce desertification, dust storms, and urban heat. The project aims to green Erbil by planting trees, improving grasslands, and using water-efficient farming methods.

The initiative contributes to Iraq's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement by enhancing terrestrial carbon stocks, from a climate governance perspective. Initial estimates derived from similar semi-arid greening initiatives indicate that thousands of hectares of rehabilitated land may sequester approximately 30,000 to 50,000 tonnes of CO_2 equivalent each year. The Green Belt not only focuses on mitigation but also addresses critical adaptation requirements such as reducing dust storms, regulating microclimates, and stabilizing soil.

This initiative illustrates the growing body of literature on nature-based solutions (NbS) in fragile and conflict-affected regions. The Green Belt demonstrates that environmental interventions fulfill two primary roles: enhancing measurable carbon sequestration and functioning as a tool for environmental peacebuilding and social resilience.

The Green Belt serves as a politically symbolic element and a significant aspect of Iraq's climate diplomacy.Iraq and the KRI can demonstrate international compliance by connecting the project with global programs like the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021–2030). The project supports donor engagement, carbon finance mobilization, and regional collaboration, reflecting Iraq's carbon economy commitment.

The Green Belt Initiative is a premier ecological restoration project aimed at mitigating the detrimental effects of desertification, dust storms, and increasing urban heat in the capital of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI). The integrated urban-peri-urban project uses afforestation, rangeland rehabilitation, and water-efficient agroforestry systems to create a vegetative buffer zone around Erbil.

Key quantitative features include:
- Targeted Area: Approximately 7,000 hectares of peri-urban land have been designated for rehabilitation, as indicated by UNEP (2021) and FAO (2020).
- Estimated Carbon Sequestration: 4.5–7.5 tonnes of CO_2 per hectare annually (~35,000 tCO_2/year at full maturity). as emphasized by UNEP (2021) and FAO (2020).
- Dust Storm Mitigation: Models project a 15–20% reduction in PM10 levels after 10 years of implementation. The World Bank (2022) also noted this.
- Economic Impact: Generation of approximately 3,500 seasonal and 800 permanent positions in nursery operations, planting, and maintenance.

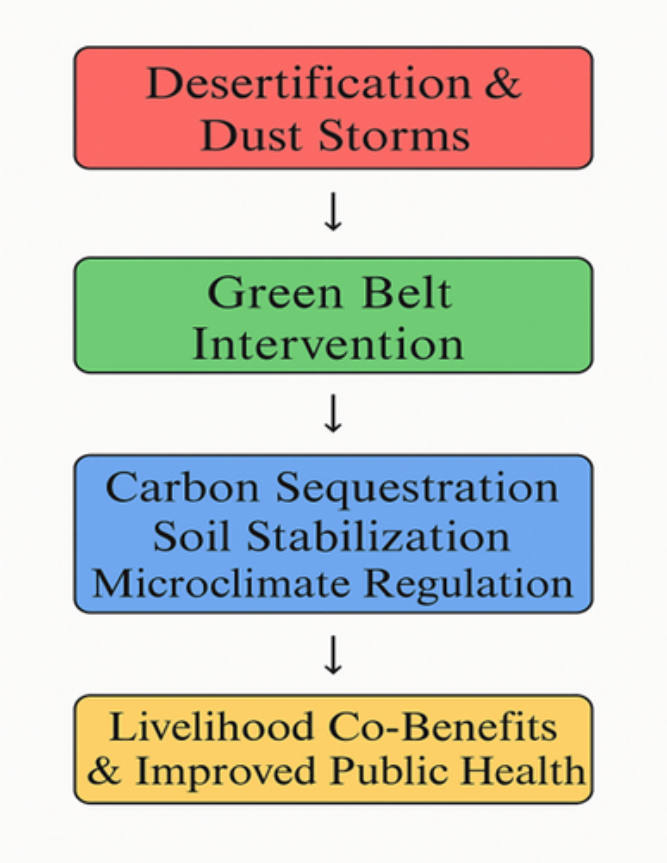

Figure 8. Green Belt Initiative Carbon Flow. The figure shows how desertification pressures lead to intervention impacts, carbon sequestration, soil stabilization, and livelihood co-benefits.

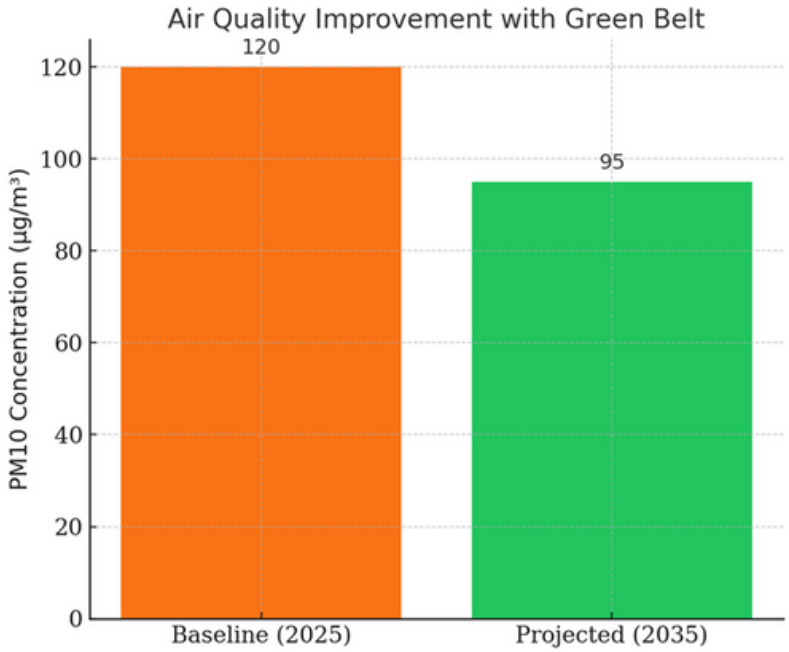

Figure 9. The chart compares baseline (2025) and projected (2035) PM10 concentrations illustrating Green Belt initiative air quality improvements.

Case Study 2. JICA-Supported Forestry and Community Development in the KRI

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has played a crucial role in advancing forestry management, enhancing watershed protection, and diversifying rural livelihoods in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. Seedling nurseries, irrigation infrastructure, and fire prevention systems are used with participatory governance models to manage forest resources with local communities.

The interventions are designed in accordance with international safeguard standards, ensuring that the risks associated with carbon leakage, non-permanence, and inequitable benefit distribution are systematically managed. The initiatives by JICA provide ecological advantages while simultaneously facilitating long-term institutional enhancement through the integration of participatory processes and capacity-building within project execution. It is crucial to note that these projects create the necessary conditions for the future integration of land-use and forestry activities into both voluntary and compliance-based carbon crediting frameworks.

The interventions implemented by JICA serve as a clear demonstration of the importance of integrated natural resource management within post-conflict and fragile state environments. This study provides empirical evidence on how external development cooperation can drive ecological rehabilitation while also enhancing local governance frameworks. These initiatives serve as case studies in the academic realm, highlighting the convergence of ecological restoration, participatory governance, and conflict-sensitive development, an emerging focus within the domain of climate security.

JICA-endorsed initiatives boost Iraq's multilateral climate negotiating position. Their strategic implementation shows donor collaboration works. Emphasizing JICA's contributions at COP30 allows Iraq and the KRI to demonstrate their global cooperation, insights, and readiness to advance through innovative blended finance strategies. This aligns with diplomatic objectives of presenting Iraq as a responsible participant in climate finance that adheres to globally recognized frameworks.

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has played a crucial role in improving forestry management, protecting watersheds, and diversifying rural livelihoods across the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. The programs amalgamate technical interventions such as seedling nurseries, irrigation infrastructure, and fire prevention systems with participatory governance models that engage local communities in the collaborative management of forest resources.

Key quantitative features include:

- Forestry Area Restored: ~5,200 hectares between 2017 and 2024. According to JICA (2021).
- Seedling Production: Annual capacity of 2 million seedlings from JICA-supported nurseries.
- Water Use Efficiency: Drip irrigation has reduced water consumption by ~35% in pilot sites. (FAO, 2020)
- Carbon Capture Potential: ~22,000 tCO_2/year by 2030. According to JICA (2021).
- Community Participation: Over 6,000 households engaged in co-management agreements.

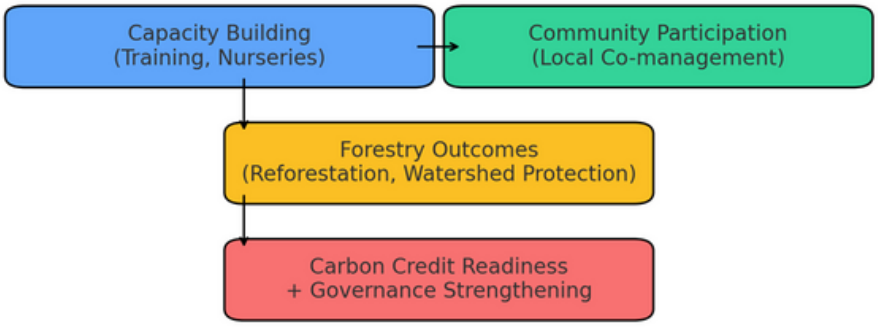

Figure 10. The diagram illustrates the JICA project sequence, linking capacity building and community participation to forestry outcomes and ultimately carbon credit readiness with strengthened governance.

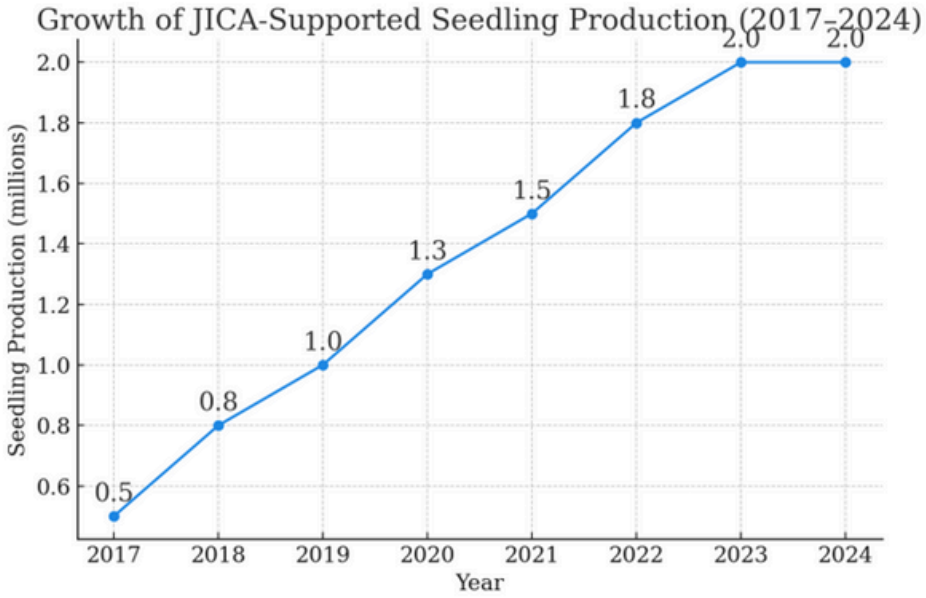

Figure 11. The chart shows the growth of JICA-supported seedling production from 2017 to 2024, increasing from 0.5 to 2 million annually, reflecting the scaling effects of investment.

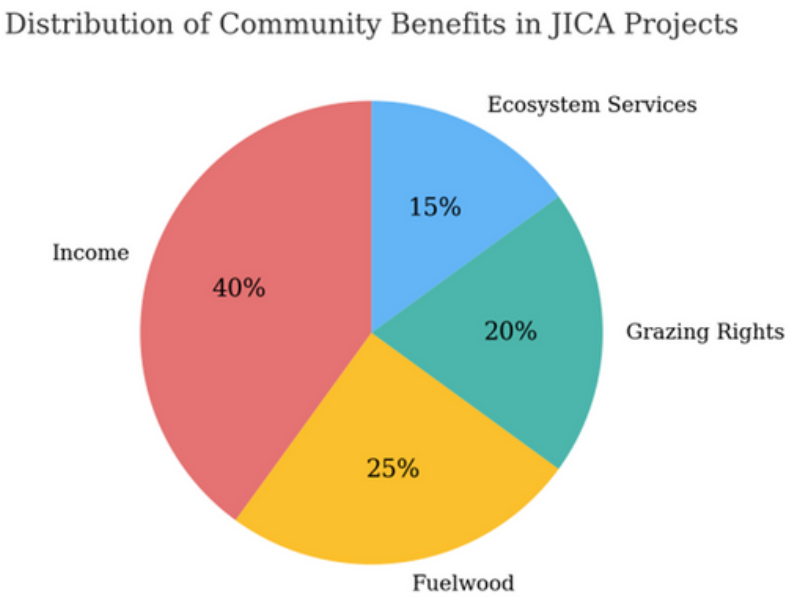

Figure 12. The chart shows the distribution of community benefits in JICA projects, with 40% from income, 25% from fuelwood, 20% from grazing rights, and 15% from ecosystem services.

Case Study 3. National Methane Reduction in Iraq

The National Methane Reduction Program operates as a significant national initiative aimed at aligning Iraq with global strategies to reduce short-lived climate pollutants. Iraq, the world's second-largest gas flarer, emits over 17 billion cubic meters (bcm) of methane annually, which is equivalent to more than 120 million tonnes of CO_2e. This initiative aims to convert oilfield operations characterized by high flaring into mechanisms for climate mitigation, energy security, and economic efficiency. The IEA (2022) emphasizes this trend. From a climate governance perspective, the program is central to Iraq's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement. Iraq is setting a goal to achieve a 40% reduction in methane flaring by 2030, which is expected to prevent the release of 50–60 $MtCO_2e$ each year.

This program will also help catch gas that can power over 8 million households with 30 TWh of electricity. Preliminary modeling suggests that improving capture infrastructure in the Basra, Kirkuk, and KRI oilfields could augment local energy production by $2–3 billion and reduce imports. This program advances research on methane mitigation in oil-producing states. Iraq's methane reduction exemplifies the interplay of hydrocarbon governance, energy transition, and climate security in contexts of unstable governments. This study provides empirical evidence that infrastructure upgrades and institutional reforms can improve climate policy, leading to measurable reductions in short-lived climate pollutants (SLCPs). Additionally, it presents a case study on the equilibrium between hydrocarbon reliance and the necessity for global decarbonization.

The Methane Reduction Program is Iraq's primary contribution to COP30, aligning with the Global Methane Pledge and demonstrating Iraq's willingness to participate in Article 6 cooperative mechanisms. The initiative emphasizes co-benefits in addition to mitigation, such as improved air quality, energy security, and fiscal sustainability. Positioning the program as a national initiative and emphasizing international collaborations with IOCs and donor agencies boosts Iraq's credibility in climate diplomacy. This indicates both accountability and capability, positioning Iraq as an active participant in global decarbonization efforts.

The National Methane Reduction Program is Iraq's primary initiative in support of the Global Methane Pledge. Iraq currently flares over 17 billion cubic meters of associated gas annually, leading to around 120 million tonnes of CO_2e emissions. This practice exacerbates climate change and jeopardizes Iraq's energy security, as the flared gas has the potential to replace imported fuels.

Key quantitative features include:

- Gas Flaring Scale: ~17 bcm/year.
- Annual emission equivalent: >120 $MtCO_2e$.
- Objectives Goal: 40% flare reduction by 2030 (50-60 $MtCO_2e$ avoided/year).
- Energy Potential: Captured gas has the potential to generate ~30 TWh of energy, powering 8 million Iraqi households.
- Economic Co-Benefits: Reducing fuel imports and increasing gas use might save $2–3 billion annually.

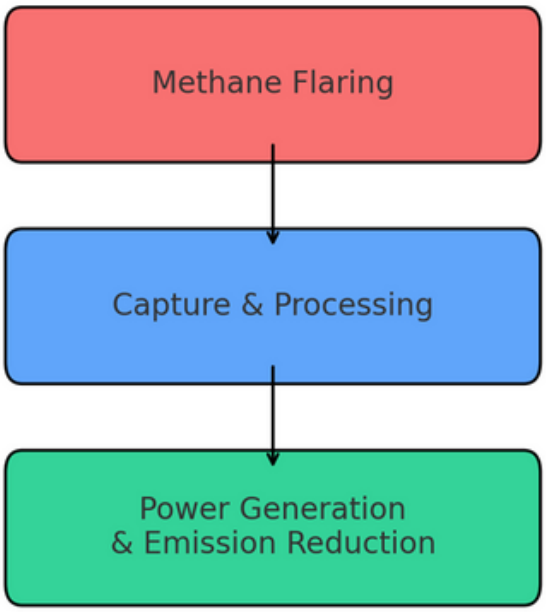

Figure 13. The figure illustrates the shift from methane flaring to its capture and processing, facilitating power generation and resulting in substantial emission reductions.

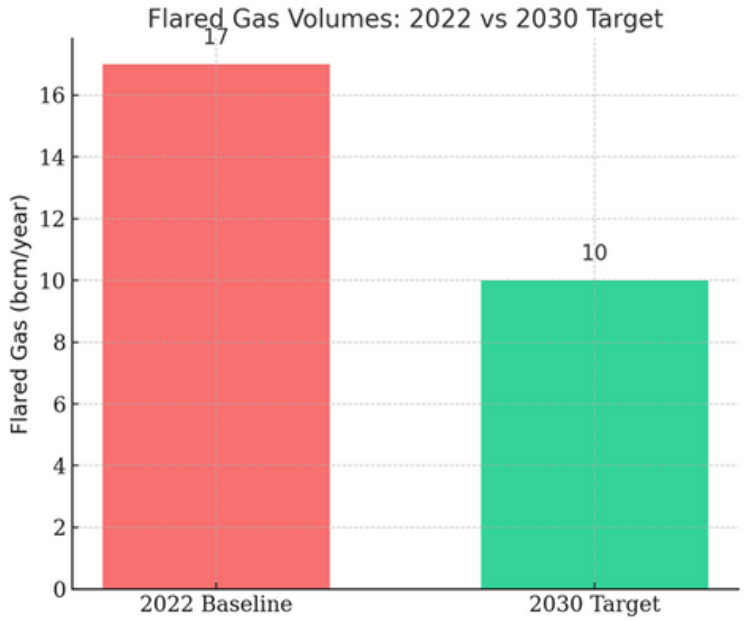

Figure 14. The chart compares 2022 baseline flared gas volumes (17 bcm/year) with the 2030 target (10 bcm/year), indicating significant emission reduction potential.

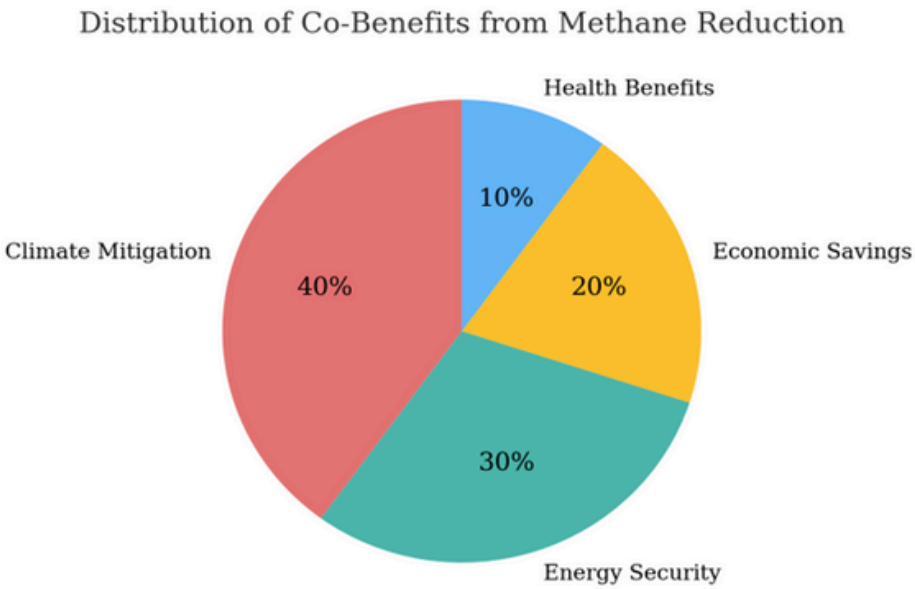

Figure 15. The chart shows the distribution of co-benefits from methane reduction: 40% climate mitigation, 30% energy security, 20% economic savings, and 10% health improvements.

Conclusion

The Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) represents the risks and opportunities of a hydrocarbon-dependent, post-conflict society navigating climate change. Building a carbon economy in KRI is necessary for environmental protection, governance reform, economic diversification, and geopolitical credibility. Comparative analysis of methane abatement, afforestation, and renewable energy expansion shows that the region has viable mitigation and adaptation pathways that deliver climate benefits and institutional legitimacy.

These initiatives go beyond emission reductions. Visible public goods like cleaner air, restored landscapes, and increased employment can strengthen state–society relations and promote peace. Iraq's Global Methane Pledge commitments make methane reduction a flagship measure with rapid, cost-effective impact. Ecological restoration projects like the Erbil Green Belt promote urban resilience, while renewable energy pilots diversify and secure energy.

Nationally, Iraq's support of the Paris Agreement, the Global Methane Pledge, and the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration shows its climate leadership readiness. Four pillars technical performance (robust MRV and compliance structures), governance strength (clarity of carbon rights and benefit-sharing), financial mobilization (capacity to attract blended climate finance), and diplomatic positioning will determine the success of this transition.

The KRI's carbon economy transition can be replicated in other fragile, hydrocarbon-dependent regions. In an era of accelerating climate diplomacy, Iraq can reduce emissions and strengthen resilience, legitimacy, and international standing by integrating climate policy into institutional reform and peacebuilding.

Recommendations

1. Embed climate governance within institutional frameworks

Establish the Kurdistan Carbon and Climate Authority (KRICCA) to supervise MRV systems and manage carbon registry operations.

Enhance Iraq's multilateral negotiation capabilities through the establishment of federal-state collaborations aimed at standardizing reporting practices.

2. Enhance Legal and Regulatory Structures

Examine the definition and implications of carbon rights in relation to the constitutional and federal structures of Iraq.

Implement protective measures for benefit-sharing, sustainability, and anti-corruption to cultivate trust between investors and the community.

Incorporate international best practices, including IPCC guidelines and ISO standards, into national regulatory frameworks.

3. Focus on mitigation pathways that show substantial effectiveness

Recognize methane abatement as Iraq's foremost mitigation strategy, highlighting its economic efficiency and alignment with international goals.

Integrate forestry and rangeland restoration into jurisdictional REDD+ programs to facilitate enduring crediting prospects.

Incorporate renewable energy initiatives into national adaptation and mitigation frameworks to illustrate systemic transformation.

4. Strategically Mobilize International Investment

Provide blended finance frameworks that combine concessional climate financing with private capital investments in infrastructure and nature-based solutions.

5. Integrate Climate Policy with Peacebuilding and Social Cohesion

Promote climate initiatives that strengthen state-society relations and create jobs, better air quality, and better landscapes.

Consider conflict sensitivity in project design to promote equitable sharing of carbon income and avoid resource-induced tensions.

6. Location Iraq's Role as a Regional Climate Innovator

Iraq's transition serves as a model for hydrocarbon-dependent economies experiencing equitable transformations in the context of fragility.

Framework for Carbon Economy Cooperation between the Federal Government of Iraq and the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRI)

Statement

This Framework for Carbon Economy Cooperation between the Federal Government of Iraq and the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRI) is prepared based on Iraq's international climate commitments under the Paris Agreement and the Global Methane Pledge, the constitutional arrangements defining federal–regional relations, and internationally recognized best practices in carbon governance. It draws on IPCC/UNFCCC guidelines for measurement and reporting, ISO and IFC standards for safeguards, and global benefit-sharing models such as REDD+. The design also reflects Iraq's specific context, including its vulnerability to climate risks, its role as a major hydrocarbon economy, and the need to link climate action with peacebuilding and resilience.

Preamble

The Framework outlines a system of collaborative governance, guarantees legal precision, and fosters financial openness in the progression of a carbon economy, thus elevating Iraq's position on the global platform while respecting the intricacies of internal federal dynamics.

Article 1: Strategic Goals

- Unified National Climate Voice: Annexe KRI contributions to give Iraq a credible international climate voice.
- Organizational Improvement: Establish clear and accountable carbon governance frameworks that promote trust between Baghdad and Erbil.
- Equity-based climate economy: Share revenues to support communities, adaptation, and resilience.
- Geopolitical Credibility: Promote Iraq as a model for just hydrocarbon transitions.

Article 2: Institutions

The Federal Ministry of Environment and KRI's Carbon & Climate Authority should co-chair the National Carbon Economy Council (NCEC).

Functions

- MRV and registry systems in Iraq should be unified.
- Approve carbon methodologies consistent with IPCC/UNFCCC guidelines.
- Serve as focal point for Article 6 negotiations and bilateral agreements.
- Mediate intergovernmental disputes.

Article 3: Carbon Rights and Benefit-Sharing

Carbon credits are public goods, attributed by region of origin, integrated into Iraq's national registry.

Amended Benefit-Sharing Formula:

- 40% earmarked for the project origin (KRI or federal governorates).
- 40% allocated for the National Climate Fund to support adaptation and extensive national initiatives.
- 20% designated for community-level adaptation, emphasizing vulnerable populations.

Yearly independent audits released to guarantee transparency.

Article 4: Legal and Safeguards

- Programs are required to comply with ISO 14064, IFC Performance Standards, and applicable national legislation.
- Free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC) is required.
- All initiatives will be verified by an independent third party.
- Formulate a National Safeguards Unit within NCEC to oversee compliance, prevent double counting, and guarantee social equity.

Article 5: Priority Areas

- Methane Abatement Position as Iraq's flagship, rapid mitigation measure.
- Forestry and Rangeland Restoration jurisdictional REDD+ programs, Green Belt expansion.
- Implementation of renewable energy through large-scale solar and wind projects throughout KRI and southern Iraq.
- Projects at the intersection of climate and security are integrated into peacebuilding strategies, establishing a connection between climate action and stability.

Article 6: Settlement of Disputes

Multi-layered strategy:

- mediated through NCEC.
- Joint Arbitration Panel including KRI and federal judges.
- National court of Iraq for disputes involving foreign investment or as agreed between both parties.

Article 7: International Delegation

- Iraq presents comprehensive COP suggestions.
- KRI validated reports were accepted by national NDCs.
- Parties present COP side events to showcase their progress.

Article 8: Review and Implementation

- Phase I (2025–2026): MRV pilot, methane projects, Green Belt expansion.
- Phase II (2027–2028): Increase projects, benefit-sharing, and NDCs.
- Phase III involves the implementation of compliance carbon markets during the period of 2029 to 2030.
- Reviews tied to UNFCCC Global Stocktake cycles to ensure adaptive learning.

Glossary of Abbreviations

BCM – Billion cubic meters; a unit of volume commonly used to quantify natural gas.
COP30 – Thirtieth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
FAO – Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.
FPIC – Free, Prior, and Informed Consent; a principle ensuring that communities, particularly Indigenous peoples, have the right to give or withhold consent for projects that may affect them.
GCF – Green Climate Fund; a multilateral fund supporting climate action in developing countries.
GEF – Global Environment Facility; a partnership financing environmental initiatives.
GHG – Greenhouse Gas.
GW – Gigawatt; a unit of power equal to one billion watts.
IEA – International Energy Agency.
IFC – International Finance Corporation; a member of the World Bank Group focusing on private-sector development.
IOC / IOCs – International Oil Company / Companies.
IPCC – Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.
ISO – International Organization for Standardization.
JICA – Japan International Cooperation Agency.
KPIs – Key Performance Indicators.
KRI – Kurdistan Region of Iraq.
KRICCA – Kurdistan Carbon and Climate Authority; a proposed institutional body to oversee carbon governance in the KRI.
MoUs – Memoranda of Understanding.
MRV – Measurement, Reporting, and Verification; essential processes for climate monitoring and compliance.

MW – Megawatt; a unit of power equal to one million watts.

MWh – Megawatt-hour; a unit of energy representing one million watts consumed or produced for one hour.

NBS – Nature-based Solutions; approaches leveraging ecosystems to address societal and environmental challenges.

NCEC – National Carbon Economy Council; a proposed joint body between the Federal Government of Iraq and the KRI.

NDCS – Nationally Determined Contributions; national commitments under the Paris Agreement.

PM10 – Particulate Matter with aerodynamic diameter ≤10 micrometers; a key indicator of air pollution.

RECS – Renewable Energy Certificates.

REDD+ – Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation, plus conservation, sustainable management of forests, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks.

SLCPs – Short-Lived Climate Pollutants.

TCO_2E – Tonne of Carbon Dioxide Equivalent; standard unit for expressing greenhouse gas emissions.

$MTCO_2E$ – Million tonnes of Carbon Dioxide Equivalent.

TWH – Terawatt-hour; a unit of energy equal to one trillion watt-hours.

UNEP – United Nations Environment Programme.

UNFCCC – United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

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