

Whole-of-Government Co-ordination across Key Development Themes: Climate Change

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1. Why Climate ODA Requires Whole-of-Government Coordination

Climate ODA differs structurally from general ODA

- ✚ Linked to the international climate agenda
 - Paris Agreement, NDCs, and UNFCCC commitments provide an important policy context for the design of climate ODA.
- ✚ Coordination extends beyond traditional aid actors
 - Climate-related ODA involves multiple actors, notably MOFA and MOFE, alongside EDCF, KOICA, MCEE, MOTIR, and others.
 - Multilateral bodies such as GCF and UNFCCC add a further layer of coordination
- ✚ The focus shifts from project to institutional level
 - Analysis centers on inter-agency, system-level governance — not individual projects
 - Scope: mitigation and adaptation projects tagged under the Rio Markers
 - The unit of assessment is coordination capacity, not project performance alone

2. Korea's Climate ODA Strategic Framework

Climate ODA Governance & Coordination

From legal basis to sector-level strategies

Committee on International Development Cooperation + Carbon Neutrality · Green Growth Framework Act (Legal Basis)



**3rd Basic ODA Plan
(2021–2025)**

**Annual Implementation
Plans (2021–2025)**

**CPS / Regional
Partnership Strategies**

**Sector Strategy:
Green New Deal ODA
Strategy (2021)**



MOFA
Green New Deal Strategy
(Grant)

MOFE
Green EDCF Strategy
(Loan)

Climate, Energy & Environment
Environment ODA Strategy

Ministry of Trade, Industry and
Resources
Energy and Industry ODA
Direction

Source: Author's compilation, based on Woo et al. (2025). Ministry names updated to reflect the Oct. 2025 launch of the Ministry of Climate, Energy and Environment (MCEE), formerly the Ministry of Environment (MOE), and the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Resources (MOTIR), formerly the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy (MOTIE).

Korea channels foreign-policy priorities through climate-linked ODA

Diplomatic Strategy ↔ Climate ODA

01 Indo-Pacific Strategy (2022)	Technology- and energy-centered regional cooperation leadership
02 Korea-ASEAN Solidarity Initiative (2023) & K-Silk Road (2024)	EVs, batteries, renewables, climate resilience — tailored bilateral partnerships
03 Korea-Africa Cooperation Framework (2022)	Climate as the 2nd priority area: green tech, climate resilience, forest restoration, climate finance

4. Coordination Mechanisms in Practice: Institutional Practices across ODA

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Ex-ante Screening

Reviews feasibility & overlap risk
2 years before implementation
Flags Rio/Environment Marker status
upfront



N-2 Year Preliminary Review System

Inter-Ministerial Review

Coordinates EDCF loan projects
across line ministries
Convened by the Office for Govt Policy
Coordination



Inter-Ministerial EDCF Review Committee

2025 Results

- 48 loan–grant linkages, 107 grant-to-grant linkages, and 9 duplication-prevention adjustments were completed in 2025; evidence the mechanism is functioning, even as ministries still call for stronger information-sharing.

What practitioners flagged in field interviews

1

Information Silos
No formal cross-
ministry input
channel
Mitigation task force
lacks institutional
access

2

No Climate-Specific
Evaluation
Assessed via general
ODA guidelines
Indicators miss
climate traits

3

Coordination Limits
Duplicate ministry-
level planning
Understaffed,
uncertain execution

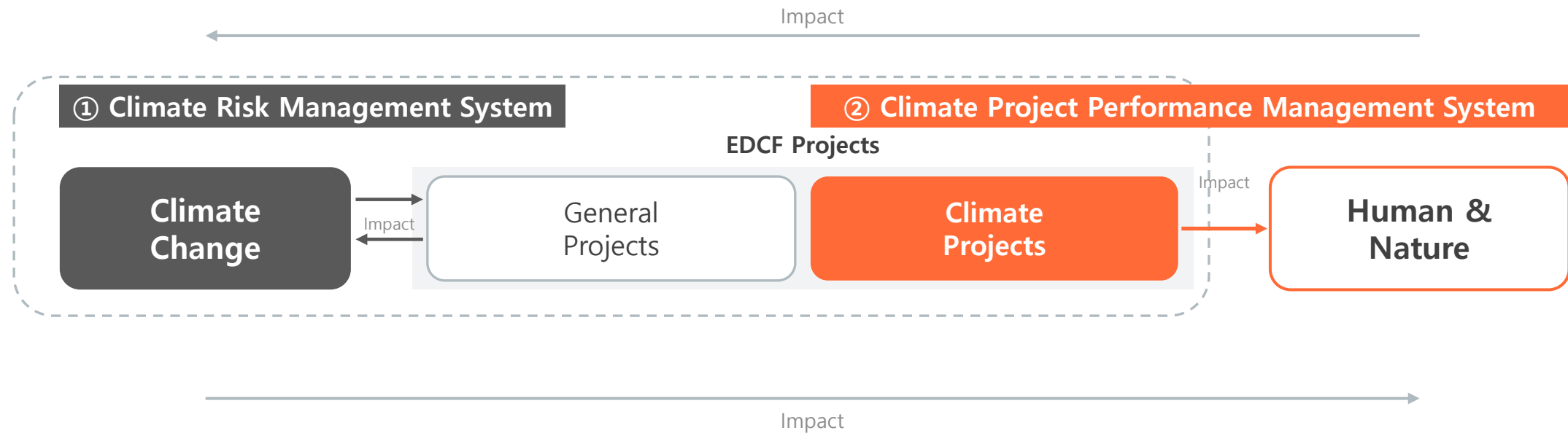
4

Weak Strategy–
Project Link
2021 strategy lacks
shared KPIs
Single-year budgets
limit packages

6. EDCF's Climate Response Framework

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Two parallel systems link climate risk to project performance



Reducing the negative impact (risk) of climate change on EDCF projects Preventing the negative impact (risk) of EDCF projects on climate change

Establishing a basis for measuring expected performance of climate projects and contributing to their expansion

Source: The Export-Import Bank of Korea (2024)

7. Performance Management in Practice: EDCF & KOICA

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1

EDCF — Green Index

Parallel risk & performance tracking
Proprietary 'Green Index' scoring
Multi-layered feedback into policy

2

KOICA — Standard Indicators

Common environmental/social safeguards
Standard indicators, full project cycle
GHG cuts quantified — global public goods

3

Shared Lesson

Common vs. agency-specific indicators
Institutionalized multi-layered feedback
Quantify global public-good impact



A model for scaling performance feedback government-wide

8. International Comparison: Korea, UK, Germany

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1

Korea — Solid Foundation,
Growing Ambition

EDCF (loans) & KOICA (grants)
implement led by Office for Govt
Next step: deepening strategy–
project linkage

2

UK — Security-Pillar Model

FCDO leads with DESNZ, Defra,
DSIT
Climate: core national security
pillar
KPI-based ICF + ICAI feedback

3

Germany — Multi-Actor
Model

BMZ coordinates ministries, federal
states, GIZ Climate embedded
across diplomacy DEval evaluations
feed shared learning



Common thread: align strategy, budget, performance &
evaluation

Strengthening Climate ODA: Strategy, Performance, and Coordination

- ✚ Move from declared strategy to operational strategy
 - Connect strategic goals with budget, implementation, performance, and evaluation
 - Strengthen alignment with partner-country NDCs and climate priorities
- ✚ Build a government-wide performance feedback loop
 - Combine common indicators with agency-specific measures
 - Track structural changes in institutions, capacity, and market readiness
 - Scale up lessons from EDCF and KOICA across government
- ✚ Institutionalize whole-of-government coordination
 - Strengthen practical information-sharing and joint planning across ministries
 - Develop a climate ODA-specific evaluation framework
 - Preserve agency expertise and autonomy while strengthening shared accountability

Thank You

Korea already has a strong institutional foundation for climate ODA. The next step is to connect strategy, budget, implementation, performance, and evaluation into one coherent whole-of-government framework.

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