

Mobilizing Climate Finance for Railways

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WORLD BANK GROUP
Transport



Agenda

- Climate Finance for Rail – 101
- Climate Finance Instruments
- Constraints
- Recommended Actions



Why Invest in Rail?



- Railways connect people and markets to opportunities
- **Economic impact:** lower logistics costs, boosts trade, improved access to jobs and services
- Rail is crucial to transport decarbonization
 - **Energy efficiency:** Modal shift cuts GHGs by 70–80%



The Railway Investment Gap

Rail is highly **capital-intensive**:

USD **300+ billion**

worldwide....

to meet economic growth

USD **20 – 80 billion**

for low- and middle-income countries

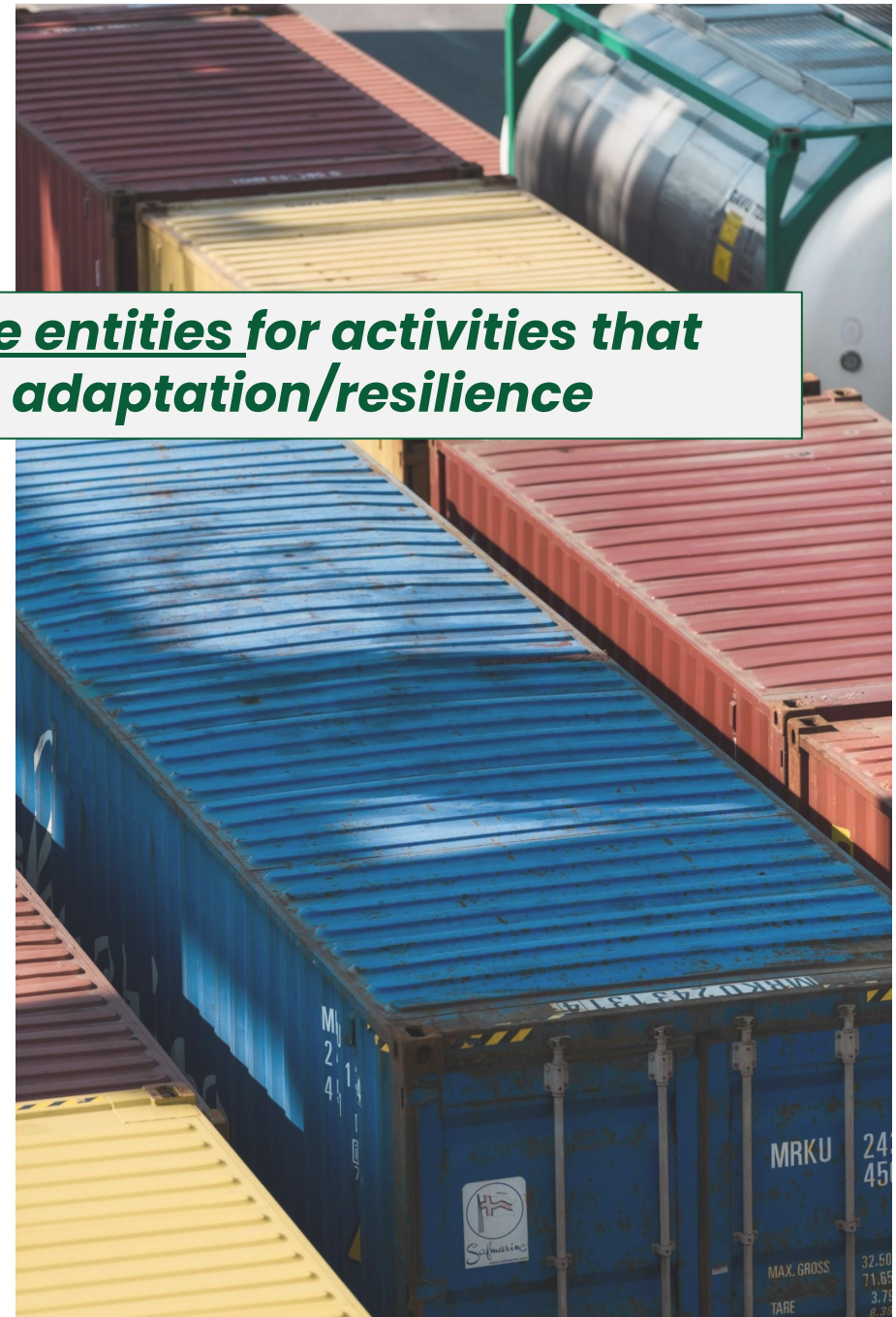
to achieve SDGs and climate resilience



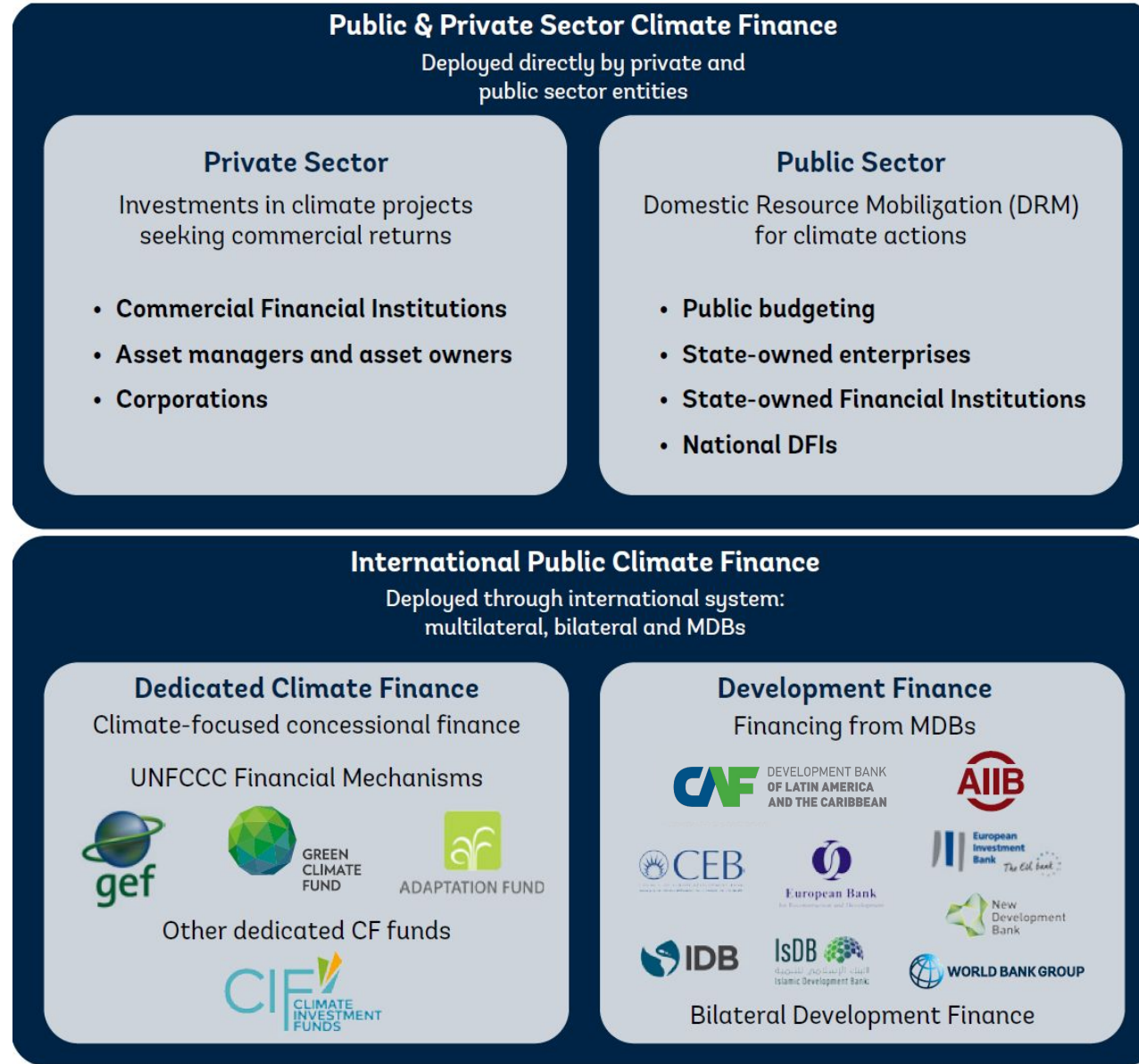
Climate Finance 101

Climate finance: financing by any public or private entities for activities that mitigate carbon emissions or support climate adaptation/resilience

- Climate Finance is defined by its purpose
 - most rail investments qualify
- Amount of climate finance is growing rapidly
- **Challenge:** Rail's current share is small



Climate Finance Landscape



Types of Climate Finance

Activity Based

upfront project financing

Green bonds/loans

Sustainability-linked
finance

Climate funds
(GCF, GEF, ...)

Results Based

payments for verified emission reductions

Carbon Markets

Climate funds
(TCAF)



Green Bonds & Loans

- Conditions like conventional bonds & loans
- Require **creditworthy borrower**
- Use of Proceeds: **“green” purpose**,
 - validated by certification agency
- **Advantages:**
 - Visibility (“green PR”)
 - co-financing opportunities
- **Examples:** SNCF, US, Morocco (ONCF), Chile, Brazil



Sustainability Linked Bonds & Loans



- Conditions like conventional bonds & loans
 - **creditworthiness required**
- Financing **linked to KPIs** for sustainability objectives
- Flexible use of proceeds
- Growing globally: \$800+ bn issued
- Rail uptake still limited
- **Example:** Knorr-Bremse AG (rail supplier)

Carbon Markets

- Trading of carbon credits for GHG reduction/removal
- **Voluntary & compliance** markets
- Requires robust certification and monitoring
- Rail uptake currently limited
- Potential as **additional source of funding**
- **Example:** Kochi (IND) Metro



Climate Funds

- Provide **grants, concessional financing**, and **risk-mitigation instruments**
- Offer **activity-** and **outcome-based instruments**
- **Limited resources**; competition with other sectors
- Transport: mostly e-mobility
- **Role:** co-financing, small projects, electrification/resilience components

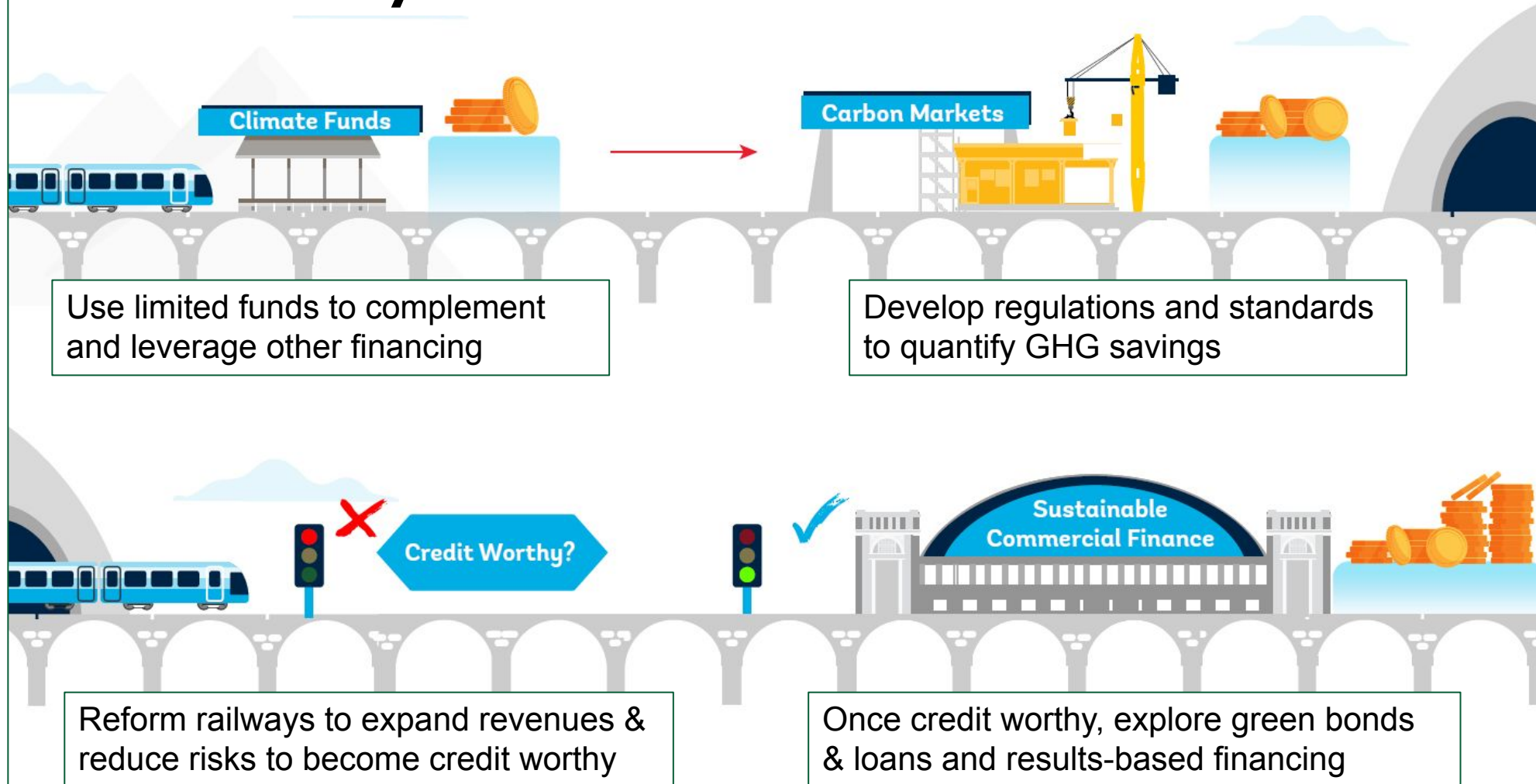


Challenges for Rail to Access Climate Finance

Challenge	Results-based financing	Activity-based financing
Familiarity	Impediment	Impediment
High abatement cost (GHG saved per \$ investment)	Not a major constraint	Blocking constraint
GHG savings spread over long asset life	Blocking constraint	Not a major constraint
Standards	Blocking constraint	Impediment
Creditworthiness	Not a major constraint	Impediment
Key: ■ = blocking constraint, ■ = impediment, ■ = not a major constraint.		



Pathways for Rail to Access Climate Finance



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Enabling Climate Finance for Rail

Mainstreaming



- Identify and support best-suited projects
- Support application/certification (costs!)

Standards

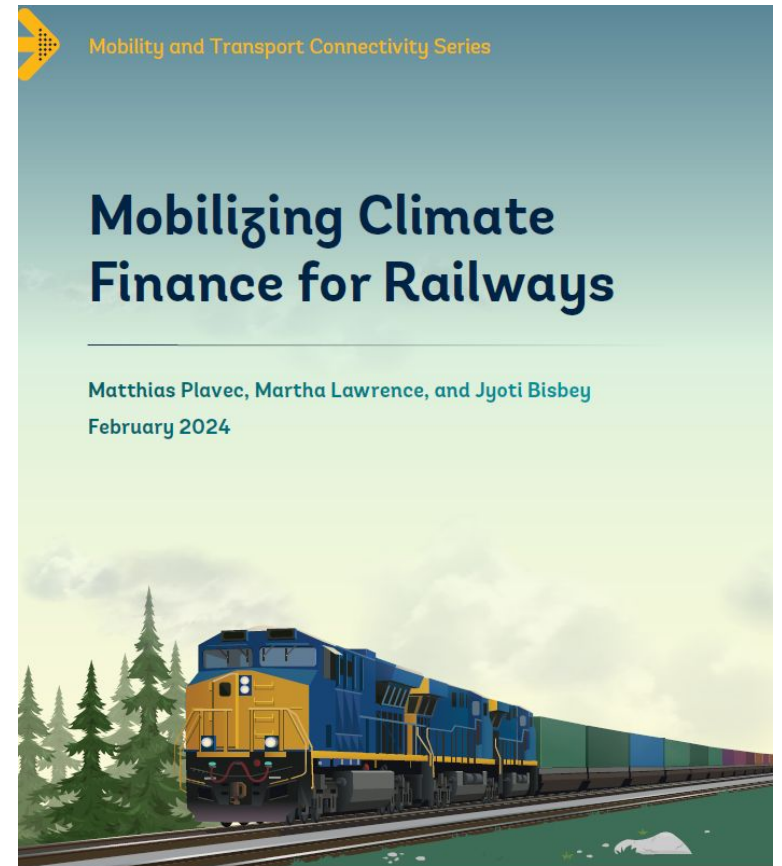


- Develop methodologies and standards for rail
- Encourage regulators to include rail in compliance carbon markets

Creditworthiness



- Strengthen SOE performance and governance
- Support structural & governance reforms (e.g., via guarantees)



Thank you

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