

Building expertise on sustainable and resilient infrastructure

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Introduction to the SuRe® Standard



Hello everyone, I'm Katharina Schneider-Roos. And I'm Louis Downing. We are part of the team at the Global Infrastructure Basel Foundation and the secretariat for an international standard for sustainable and resilient infrastructure, called SuRe®. In this short video we will introduce to you the SuRe® standard, what it is, where it came from and how it can be implemented to ensure that infrastructure projects are built to be more sustainable and resilient. That is, how can we make projects meet needs of the future, whilst minimising negative impacts and withstanding mounting challenges like rapid urbanisation, demographic shifts and climate change? TURN TO LOOK AT EACH OTHER So Katharina, can you tell us a bit more about the standard? What exactly is it, and how do projects use it? Well, it is an international voluntary standard, made up of a set of criteria that projects need to meet to become certified. It is very similar to standards such as the Marine Stewardship Council for fisheries, or the fair trade label, except that, SuRe® is a standard for infrastructure. Ok, that makes sense. And what do we mean when we say infrastructure?

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0m 05s

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Good question – generally speaking, we are talking about large physical assets that provide a service to the public. Think of roads, bridges, energy production and transmission, telecommunication, water treatment, waste water, or solid waste management; this kind of infrastructure. Ok, so the SuRe® standard has a set of criteria to make this kind of infrastructure more sustainable and resilient? That's right. And where did these criteria come from? Well, they come from a range of places, actually. As we know, the world has a pretty massive need for new infrastructure, and it's important that this infrastructure is sustainable. For years, the GIB Foundation has been working with project developers to plan the infrastructure of tomorrow, and with financiers to accelerate finance towards these improved projects. There are a range of international objectives that we need to be working towards through better infrastructure, which are articulated in international frameworks and conventions such as the Sustainable Development Goals, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Convention on Biodiversity, the Paris Climate Accord, and many others.

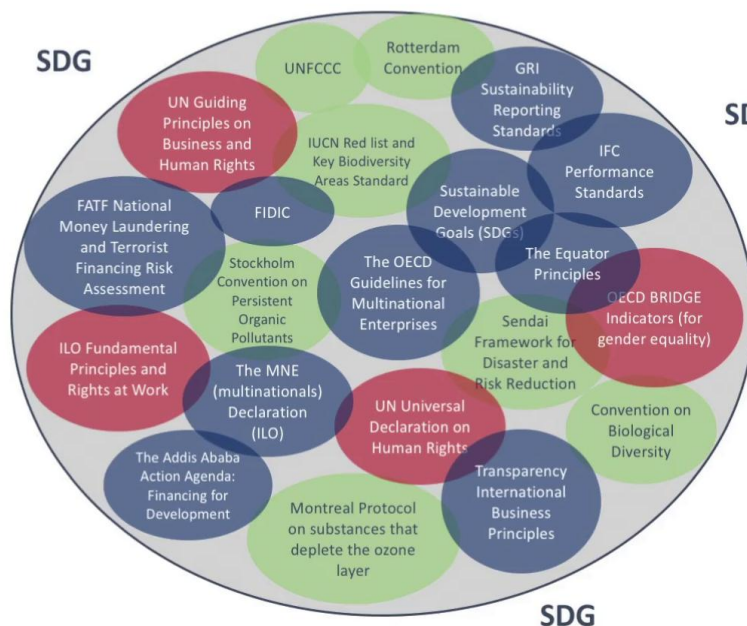
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1m 13s

The SuRe® Standard is in line with International Objectives



SDG

The SuRe Standard brings existing international frameworks and agreements on **environmental**, **social** and **governance** topics together.

What we've seen over the years, is that in many places, these international objectives in many ways get stuck at the level of international dialogue. But what we need to make a real difference, is that these goals are translated to the project level. This is the purpose of the SuRe® Standard: to bring all these objectives into one place that is easy to understand and helps project developers and city planners to make a real difference.

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Stakeholder-Driven Standard Setting



SuRe Standard Developed using the ISEAL Codes of Practice



Public Sector: Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN), Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) Cities: Boston, Fortaleza, New Orleans, Tshwane

Civil Society: World Resources Institute (WRI) Ross Centre, Institute for Development, Environment and Energy (IDE-E), MCE Legal Advocats, United Nations Office for Project Services, Green Economy Coalition, WWF International

Financiers (incl. MDBs): European Investment Bank (EIB), World Bank GIF, Global Environment Facility (GEF), India Integrated Infrastructure Finance Bank (IDFC), Mirova, Santam Insurance, African Infrastructure Investment Managers (AIIM), Argaam Capital

NGOs: Climate-KIC, CREAM-PPP, GIP Pacifico Columbia, The Nature Conservancy, WWF Switzerland

International Organisations: OECD, UN-HABITAT, UNOPS

Project Developers: Bouygues Construction, General Electric, Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services Limited (IL&FS)

Consultants & Certifiers: Association of Chinese Plant Engineers (CAPEC), International Federation of Consulting Engineers (FIDIC), Environmental Resources Management (ERM), Mott MacDonald, true&fair.expert

Ok, so the criteria come from internationally agreed frameworks and conventions That's right, but there's a bit more to it. The standard came about through an international collaborative effort from organisations around the world. The process of setting the standard follows the ISEAL code of practice for standard setting. ISEAL is the international umbrella organization for voluntary sustainability standards. Following the ISEAL codes of practice was a key part of ensuring that the standard is internationally credible and reflects the consensus of the stakeholders who developed the standard. GIB did not invent the criteria within the SuRe® standard, but rather channeled the voices of many international stakeholders to determine the most appropriate criteria to them.

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3m 03s

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Great – and in what regions is the standard applicable? Well, it's global! The standard was built by stakeholders from around the world, specifically so it would take into account the different needs of all regions. So the standard was developed by a range of international stakeholders to translate international goals to the project level, and it's internationally applicable. So, if I am a project developer, or a city planner, why would I choose to implement the standard on my project? What are the benefits to me? Well, our objective at GIB is to help project developers to build more infrastructure that is sustainable and resilient. So we aim, not only to help project developers to improve the sustainability and resilience of their projects, but also to help them to get access to finance. The SuRe® standard has been designed based on the inputs of financiers globally, as well as on the IFC performance standards, to help project developers to re-risk their projects and satisfy the requirements of financiers. So access to finance is a pretty important incentive. From the perspective of the financiers, the standard is set up to help them monitor their investments from both a risk perspective and to measure the positive impact that their portfolio is having on the world.

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This is important for financiers to report to shareholders, as well as to benchmark investments and ultimately to channel more resources towards the kind of quality infrastructure that is so badly needed today. OK! That sounds great. So it's not just a voluntary standard. You've created a whole system to incentivize the public and private actors to create more sustainable and resilient infrastructure. Exactly Fantastic. Thanks so much for listening, and please feel free to contact the GIB foundation if you have any queries, or visit our website to find out more information.

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5m 27s