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Hello and welcome. In this video, we get some external perspectives on the role of private voluntary standards in infrastructure. How can these standards support projects to become more sustainable and resilient? Standards like the Fair Trade label and the Forest Stewardship Council label have been revolutionary to improving the impacts of forestry and agriculture globally. So how can similar differences be made for infrastructure? To truly mainstream sustainability and resilience in infrastructure, it's important that standards are globally applicable. We asked a representative of the City of Dezhou in Shangdong Province, China, to share with us his perspectives on sustainability in municipal infrastructure. [foreign language 00:00:55] [foreign language 00:01:09] [foreign language 00:01:33] [foreign language 00:01:52] To get another perspective on the role of voluntary standards to infrastructure sustainability globally, we asked a representative of the Chinese Association for Plant Engineering Consultants, CAPEC.

Notes

Summary





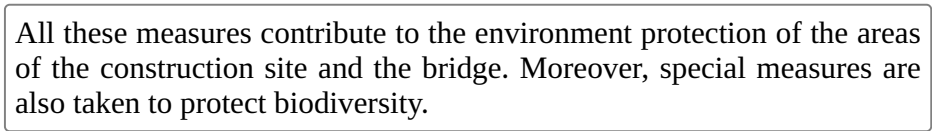
Zhang Ruijie is the Secretary-General of the Low Carbon Economy Committee and Director of the International Cooperation Department at CAPEC. Infrastructure is the most fundamental elements of economic and social construction. To achieve economic and social sustainability, it is absolutely crucial and necessary to make infrastructure more sustainable and resilient. In order to prepare infrastructure products to withstand the impacts of climate change, it is extremely urgent to include sustainable and resilient factors into the design, construction, operation and maintenance of infrastructure products. SuRe Standard is definitely the right tool for this process. Sustainable and green development has already become the national policy of China. To achieve the sustainable goals of sustainable development, China has taken systematic, and holistic policies, and measures, especially in infrastructure design and execution, taking Hong Kong–Macau–Zhuhai Bridge as an example. Various measures are taken to reduce the environmental impacts. For instance, strict environment requirements for construction machines and ships, to reduce emission, noise, oil leakage, collection and disposal of sewage and waste, new energy-saving materials, etc.

Notes

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2m 31s

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Summary





Certification bodies are the organisations responsible for auditing the requirements of private voluntary standards. We spoke to Silvio Leonardi, the Managing Director of the Swiss certification body, true&fair, about his perspectives and experiences related to private voluntary standards for infrastructure.

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4m 54s



My name is Silvio Leonardi. I am the managing partner of true&fair.experts, a company based in Switzerland in the capital of Bern, and we are specialised in validation and verification in the field of sustainability. The SuRe Standard has several benefits. I already mentioned the inclusion of the stakeholder participation and attractiveness for investors. But also it helps to maybe find out already in the design phase of a project, of an infrastructure project, to find out some weaknesses. There is one very good example which I can quickly mention. After the heavy earthquake on Haiti in 2010, the United States decided to support the rebuilding of the country, and there was a project to construct a new industrial area. The project was fully signed, and... It was financed by the Inter-American Development Bank. At that bank, there was a sustainability officer who had to check the project, and he rejected the project because he found out that the level of that industrial park was not high enough above the sea level, and he thought about the threat of a flood. And so the project had to be redesigned, and as a consequence, wall was built surrounding the industrial park as a protection against a flood.

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5m 15s



What happened was, in 2016, there was a heavy flood on Haiti and aerial pictures show that all the surrounding of that industrial park was really fully flooded, but there was no damage at all within the protected area of the industrial park. This for me is a very good example that really taking into account not only potential threats, which can come up by climate change, but also impacts on the society which need to be taken into account when applying for a certification according to SuRe Standards. Another outcome of a certification is that the assessment report will not only show the impacts the projects will have, or has, on the environment, or on society, even also show the reduced impacts due to the requirements of the standards, compared to a business-as-usual project. Maybe one day in the future this reduction of impacts may have a tradable value. Maybe some other projects where you are not able to... For example, to construct environmentally friendly project, there may be a need for compensation, so who knows if this will be a market in the future. Another benefit of the SuRe Standard is it is very easy to make a cross-check with the six-to-one criterias of the standard with national or international sustainable objectives.

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7m 36s



For example, like the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations, or the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. By doing this you will have another helpful result of the certification showing that your project is not only sustainable but also aligned with some kind of national or international objectives.

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