

SuRe® – the Standard for Sustainable and Resilient Infrastructure

Standard-Setting Public System Report

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1 Standard

1.1 Scope

1.1.1 SuRe® is a globally applicable Standard for Infrastructure projects and can be applied to all Infrastructure sectors including (but not limited to) transportation, utilities, energy production and soft Infrastructure, urban and rural Infrastructure development projects. It can be applied to all development phases of Infrastructure projects including: planning, design, commissioning, construction, operation and decommissioning and is not limited to new Infrastructure development (green- field projects). SuRe® can also be applied during the refurbishment and upgrading of existing Infrastructure (Brownfield projects). Projects may apply for certification under SuRe® either before, during, or after the Project's construction.

1.1.2 For the purposes of SuRe® certification and assessment process, the Unit of Certification (The Project) includes all "Infrastructure" activities and actors which may typically include, for example: a system of physical components within a boundary, activities performed as part of the different infrastructure phases and any other entity to which responsibility for an element of the "Project" has been given (including for example, The Project Owner, the contractor(s), etc.).

1.2 Sustainability outcomes

1.2.1 SuRe® aims to drive the integration of sustainability and resilience aspects into infrastructure development, upgrade, and financing by establishing a common language and understanding of sustainable and resilient infrastructure projects between project developers, financiers, local authorities, NGOs and end-users. SuRe® aims to achieve the following identified sustainability outcomes:

- **Governance:** Enhancing project and sustainability management processes, including transparency and accountability as well as stakeholder engagement. Furthermore, improving financial sustainability, including sound financial modelling and life-cycle assessment.
- **Society:** Being inclusive, assessing the project's respect for labour rights and its contribution to socioeconomic development. Furthermore, SuRe® aims to contribute to the preservation of cultural heritage while being respectful of local practices and local communities.
- **Environment:** Minimising negative environmental impacts of infrastructure development by covering aspects such as pollution and resource management, biodiversity, climate protection and resilience, as well as land use criteria. Additionally, regenerative projects, which restore or enhance ecological value and are considered innovators, will be recognized.

1.3 Why is it needed (justification)

1.3.1 Economic and social development relies on having functioning and efficient systems. Infrastructure supports these systems by enabling access to critical services such as provision of water, health, education and increasing connectivity among cities. As such, infrastructure provides a huge opportunity to ensure that society is not locked-in to an unsustainable path but rather contributes to achieving ESG (environment, social, governance) objectives. Infrastructure projects, however need guidance to better understand what elements of Sustainability and Resilience should be integrated into Infrastructure development. SuRe aims to be the means through which Project Developers, the Public Sector and Financiers (the three main actors in infrastructure) have a common language to ensure that Good International Industry Practice (GIIP) (in terms of sustainability and resilience) is fully integrated into infrastructure.

1.4 Performance level

1.4.1 SuRe® is a Standard that encourages continuous improvement in infrastructure projects. Therefore SuRe® has three certification levels: Bronze, Silver and Gold. SuRe® rewards projects that go beyond baseline

requirements and which demonstrate innovative practices by giving them the possibility to achieve Silver or Gold certification depending on their level of compliance to SuRe® criteria in relation to their materiality.

1.4.2 All projects are subject to a Materiality Assessment. The purpose of the Materiality Assessment is to identify which Sustainability and Resilience topics are of most importance to each Project applying for SuRe® certification.

1.4.3 SuRe® criteria are divided into Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Dimensions. The criteria are comprised of performance-oriented (PC) and management-oriented criteria (MC). Management Criteria, (of which there are a total of 46), are criteria which are commitment and process oriented, meaning that projects shall demonstrate that their management systems, approach or processes include the requirements specified in SuRe® Management Criteria. The Performance Criteria, (of which there are a total of 15), are intended to capture progressively improving performance against quantitative and qualitative requirements of the SuRe® Standard. SuRe® has 22 criteria defined as Safeguarding Red Criteria. These criteria shall be treated as mandatory requirements, meaning that compliance with these criteria is required in order to achieve certification. The Safeguarding Red Criteria can be Management or Performance Criteria.

1.5 Adaptations

1.5.1 SuRe® criteria do not substitute national law or requirements but rather complement them by clearly referencing Good International Industry Practice (GIIP) and following the guidelines established by international frame-works and conventions. SuRe® has globally applicable criteria which may also be adaptable to national and regional conditions and needs.

2 Standard-Setting and Revision Process

2.1 When standard was first written and by whom

2.1.1 The first version of SuRe® (0.1) was launched at COP21 in Paris in 2015. The Standard has been co-developed by Global Infrastructure Basel Foundation (GIB) as the scheme owner and the French investment bank Natixis.

2.2 Stakeholder categorization and geography

2.2.1 GIB conducted a stakeholder mapping in order to identify the main stakeholder groups for which the SuRe® 's mandate is relevant. The three main stakeholder groups identified are:

- **Project developers:** all participants in the infrastructure project throughout its life cycle which may include infrastructure project owners or companies, constructors, engineers working on the project, other contractors and subcontractors, operations and maintenance (O&M) agents depending on the nature and stage of development of the infrastructure project.
- **Infrastructure financiers:** public and private financiers, including financial services, public and development finance institutions, institutional investors, private companies and communities depending on the financing approach of the project and associated sources of finance.
- **Public sector institutions:** all public sector departments and institutions that have authority to procure, select, authorise and/or finance infrastructure projects at local, regional, national and international levels depending on the location and scale of the infrastructure project.

2.2.2 The current composition of stakeholders per sector and region by the time of writing this report is as follows:

Table: Overview of Stakeholder Distribution per region and sectors

REGIONS \ SECTORS	Africa	Asia & Pacific	Europe & North America	Latin America & Carribeans	MENA	Global	TOTAL
Developers & contractors	0	2	2	0	0	0	4
Financial Services	1	0	3	0	1	2	7
Public sector	1	0	2	1	0	0	4
Civil society	1	0	5	0	1	2	9
Certifiers & consultants	0	0	1	0	0	1	2
Academia	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Others	0	0	1	0	0	2	3
TOTAL	5	2	14	1	2	7	31

2.3 Summary of the revision process,

2.3.1 The SuRe[®] Normative Standard shall be reviewed at least every five years from the date of publication of the most recent version of the Standard, however GIB reserves the right to conduct revisions before the five year period if needed. For the development of the Standard as well as for each review and revision process, the SuRe[®] Secretariat prepares the draft documents and coordinates the standard-setting/revision process. The Standard Committee, is responsible for monitoring the standard-setting/revision process, signing off on drafts, and recommending approval of the new/revised standard to the GIB Foundation Board based on the quality of the revision process. GIB staff shall engage with the Standard Committee and the Stakeholder Council, which shall verify and give feedback to the material content of the Standard through face-to-face meetings and online participation (e.g. Google apps, webinars, etc.). At the end of this phase, the SuRe[®] Secretariat shall publish the outcome of this process and open a public consultation. The Public consultations shall be open to all interested parties. The first round of public consultation is open for 60 days, with subsequent rounds lasting 30 days.

2.3.2 The SuRe[®] Secretariat shall actively seek the contribution of underrepresented or disadvantaged groups by implementing strategies that can allow these groups to participate, for example: by allowing remote participation (skype, conference calls, etc.) to meetings, supporting the visa process of representatives flying in to GIB's offices for meetings by providing adequate documentation (e.g. invitation letter), and in some instances (when funding is available) contributing to a percentage of the expenses of the travel and/or accommodation costs.

2.4 Governance

2.4.1 The Stakeholder Council (SHC) is the formal stakeholder forum within the Standard's governance structure. Up to 40 members can be part of the SHC. The SHC provides feedback to GIB during standard-setting activities, standard content and strategic planning and also nominate members for the Standard Committee. At the time of writing there were 31 members in the stakeholder council. Any stakeholder wishing to be part of the SHC can contact the SuRe[®] Secretariat to submit an application of membership to the council.

2.4.2 The Standard Committee (SC) is the main governance body of the Standard scheme, composed of 11 - 15 members representing different stakeholder groups. Standard Committee members actively contribute to the development of the Standard, by strategic and content-related decision-making. At the time of writing there were 14 members in the Standard Committee. SC members are nominated and chosen by the Stakeholder Council.

2.4.3 The GIB Foundation Board is responsible for all financial, legal and governance aspects of the GIB Foundation, including the determination of strategic and policy direction, supervision of the management fulfilment of specific tasks attributed to it by GIB Statutes. It provides final authority on due process in all standard-setting and revision processes.

2.4.4 The SuRe® Secretariat: is responsible for taking up all secretarial functions linked to the work of the Standard Committee. The SuRe® Secretariat comprises members from GIB Foundation and Natixis Bank. At the time of writing, there were 4 members in the SuRe® Secretariat.

2.5 Decision-making process

2.5.1 The SuRe® Standard-setting process strives for consensus. Therefore, decisions within the Standard Committee, the main decision making body regarding the Standard shall be consensus-based. When consensus is not reached, the alternative decision-making process shall be used. If there is sustained opposition by more than one member of the Standard Committee, said members shall propose an alternative solution to the issue(s) in question. If again consensus is not reached, the Standard Committee will take a decision according to an absolute supermajority of two thirds, with at least one member from each stakeholder group in favour to ensure that no particular stakeholder group controls decision-making

2.6 Review and Revision process

2.6.1 Stakeholders not satisfied with the Standard can submit a complaint in writing using the SuRe® Standard Complaints Form available on GIB's website. The SuRe® Secretariat shall acknowledge the receipt of the complaint in writing within a period of five to ten working days, assess the submitted complaint and shall respond to the proposed corrective action within a period of 3 months. The complainant can, within 30 days, appeal against the decision in writing to the SuRe® Secretariat which will seek the advice of the SuRe® Standard Committee. The decision, informed by the SuRe® Standard Committee, shall be communicated in writing to the affected parties within 30 days of submission to the complainant, and the information made available to other parties where relevant. All decisions made by the SuRe® Standard Committee are final.

2.6.2 GIB encourages stakeholder involvement and participation and welcomes them to submit comments through various channels via email, phone, post or social networks at all times - including between revisions. The date of the next review process is planned for 2022, however GIB reserves the right to conduct revisions before the five year period if needed, in which case stakeholders shall be promptly informed through the GIB's website, newsletter and other communication channels.