



THE STANDARD FOR
SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT
INFRASTRUCTURE

A grayscale photograph of a large-scale construction site. Several tall, modern buildings are under construction, with extensive scaffolding and cranes visible against a cloudy sky. The foreground shows a flat, open area, possibly a construction site or a parking lot.

Certify a Project:
Your Guide to Certification under SuRe® -
the Standard for Sustainable and Resilient
Infrastructure



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Global Infrastructure Basel Foundation (GIB) is a Swiss non-profit foundation working to promote sustainable and resilient infrastructure globally. GIB engages with a wide range of stakeholders to build links between infrastructure projects and sources of finance. GIB is the Standard Owner of SuRe® – The Standard for Sustainable and Resilient Infrastructure, a private, voluntary, third-party verified certification standard.

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<http://www.gib-foundation.org/sure-standard/>

Introduction

This guide will provide you with the basic information you need to understand the SuRe® certification procedure, and how you can proceed to certify your infrastructure project.

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The SuRe® Standard

SuRe® – The Standard for Sustainable and Resilient Infrastructure, created by Global Infrastructure Basel Foundation (GIB) in cooperation with the French investment bank Natixis, is a global voluntary standard, developed following ISEAL's best practices for Standard development. SuRe® integrates key criteria of sustainability and resilience into infrastructure development and upgrade, through 14 themes covering 61 criteria across environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors in addition to two general reporting for impact measurement requirements.

In a world where infrastructure represents one of the biggest investment and development opportunities, the importance of ensuring infrastructure is resilient and sustainable is key to ensuring society is not locked-in into an unsustainable path but rather, can contribute to achieving societal, governance, economic and environmental (ESG) goals. SuRe® provides guidance to infrastructure projects to successfully integrate sustainability and resilience criteria following Good International Industry Practice (GIIP) aligned with key international frameworks, guidelines and conventions.

As such, SuRe® establishes a common language and understanding of sustainable and resilient infrastructure projects between project developers, financiers, local authorities; and to provide guidance on how to manage those aspects from both a risk management and a benefit creation perspective, and starting from as early as possible in the project's life cycle. As such, SuRe® can be used to leverage both public and private investments in infrastructure in a way that ensures cost-effective access to critical services while strengthening resilience, maximizing social benefits and limiting the project's environmental footprint.

SuRe® relies on independent third-party certification. It is meant to be user-friendly

and to facilitate the clear communication of a project's macro-benefits while enabling project comparability. SuRe® builds upon existing work in advancing sustainability standards. Additionally, SuRe® is based on GIB's Grading for Sustainable Infrastructure which has been used since 2012 as a self-assessment tool for over 150 infrastructure projects.

Selection Criteria

Which projects can apply?

Certification is open to infrastructure projects globally and across different types of infrastructure, including both greenfield and brownfield projects. Projects should have a CAPEX amounting to minimum USD 10 million to be eligible. Below this amount, we recommend that you use the GIB SmartScan¹ (SuRe®'s rapid self-assessment tool) to evaluate the sustainability and resilience of your project.

The applicability of SuRe® includes (but is not limited to) the following types of infrastructure services:

- **Water** (harvesting, storage, management, distribution, treatment and recycling);
- **Energy** (generation, storage and distribution);
- **Solid waste** (collection, distribution, processing, recycling and storage);
- **Transport networks, nodes and fleet** (pedestrian, bicycle, vehicular, rail, water-borne and air transportation);
- **Communication networks** (telephone, cellular and data);
- **Social infrastructure** (education, healthcare, sports and recreation, law

¹ To learn more about GIB and for more detailed information about SuRe® and the SmartScan, please refer to www.gib-foundation.org/sure-standard

enforcement, fire and emergency services):

- **Food systems** (production, storage, processing and distribution);
- **Mining and extractive sites.**

A Project wishing to be SuRe® certified may apply for and retain SuRe® certification in any of the following development phases:

- planning and design;
- construction;
- commissioning;
- operation;
- upgrade, augmentation and/or;
- decommissioning.

SuRe® serves as a best practice standard for following Good International Industry Practice (GIIP) in each of these phases with the objective of contributing to mainstreaming sustainability and resilience in infrastructure.

For more information on the applicability of SuRe® in the different project phases, refer to document ST01 “SuRe® Normative Standard” section 5.2 available on the online SuRe® Document Library.

Benefits of SuRe® Certification

A SuRe® Certification is your gateway to international best practice for Sustainability and Resilience. With a SuRe® certificate, you can boost the sustainability and resilience factors of your infrastructure project by:

- ✓ Assessing the state of your infrastructure project against international criteria;
- ✓ Identifying areas of improvement to bring your project to meet international sustainability standards;
- ✓ Demonstrating credibility and transparency to your stakeholders;
- ✓ Attracting new financing opportunities and public support;
- ✓ Increasing international exposure;
- ✓ Contributing to the international policy agenda on climate change mitigation and;
- ✓ Ensuring mutual recognition with other standards.

Overview of the SuRe® Standard dimensions, themes and criteria

3 Dimensions	14 Themes	61 criteria	+ 2
GOVERNANCE	Management and Oversight	18	Materiality Assessment Reporting for Impact Measurement
	Sustainability and Resilience		
	Management		
	Stakeholder Engagement		
SOCIETY	Anti-corruption and Transparency	24	
	Human Rights		
	Labour Rights and Working Conditions		
	Community Protection		
	Customer Focus and Community Involvement		
	Socioeconomic Development		
ENVIRONMENT	Climate	19	
	Biodiversity and Ecosystems		
	Resource Management		
	Pollution		
	Land Use and Landscape		

Steps to Certification

Full assessment is the detailed, rigorous process that your certification body will follow to determine whether or not your infrastructure project meets the SuRe® Standard.

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Optional GIB SmartScan

For projects not wishing to undergo a full certification, GIB offers the GIB SmartScan. This may be a good option for projects that are unprepared for a full certification, or for smaller projects (below 10 million USD (CAPEX)). The GIB SmartScan is an infrastructure self-assessment tool based on the SuRe® Standard which provides a rapid assessment of an infrastructure project against sustainability and resilience ESG criteria but does not result in certification. More information on the GIB SmartScan is available on the GIB website.

Preparing for Certification

Preparing for certification is a recommended first step towards ensuring that your project is ready to successfully undergo the full assessment process.

During this step, the Project reviews the SuRe® materials available online on the SuRe® Document Library and carries out a recommended (but not mandatory) first self-assessment against the SuRe® criteria inside the document 'ST01 SuRe® Standard' in order to determine if the Project is ready to undergo a full certification.

Appointing one staff member as a “guide” to be the main point of contact between the certification body, the scheme owner (GIB) and the Project, is a way to ensure an efficient communication and information flow during the assessment process.

Roadmap to Certification

The full assessment of SuRe® follows a complete auditing process of the Project's compliance against SuRe® criteria.

Compliance with the SuRe® criteria is assessed in terms of performance against key sustainability indicators and the implementation and/or existence of efficient management process and systems.

The full SuRe® assessment process takes approximately 2-6 months to complete (depending on the individual characteristics of each project), including audit, reporting and issue of the SuRe® certificate. The steps to get certified are summarized on the following page.

Steps to Getting Certified Under SuRe®

- 1**
Registration

The Project Owner registers their infrastructure project for SuRe® certification, and submits basic project information, including the scope of the project boundary.
- 2**
Self-assessment

The Project completes a self materiality assessment against the SuRe® criteria as a first step towards determining materiality and compliance which will be reviewed in the following steps.
- 3**
Certification Body Engagement

The Project shall select a SuRe® accredited Certification Body (CB) to carry out the full assessment (including auditing). In this step the CB will:

 - Agree on the terms of the assessment with the Project;
 - Develop a timeline for next steps and roadmap to certification for the Project.
 - Sign contract with the Project.
 - Revise the Project’s materiality assessment against SuRe® criteria;
 - Conduct a preliminary gap analysis of the Project’s performance against SuRe®;
- 4**
Public Consultation

The CB submits for public consultation the results of the Materiality Assessment. All stakeholders are given a period of 30 days to comment and raise issues. The CB shall review the comments and if necessary redefine the materiality of the criteria.
- 5**
Independent Third Party Audit

The CB appoints an auditing team to formally conduct a third party audit of the Project against SuRe® criteria. This audit will include a desk review of the evidence provided by the Project and site visits.

The output of the audit is a draft assessment report detailing the Project’s performance against SuRe® criteria. The draft report will also include (if applicable) a list of non-conformities and corrective actions.
- 6**
Final Report & Certification Decision

The Final Report is issued once the auditing team has revised it according to the comments received during the public review and after the Project's own revision of errors of fact. GIB shall provide a recommendation to the CB of whether the Project should be certified or not.

The CB takes the final decision on the certification for the Project.
- 7**
Certificate Granted!

Using your SuRe® certification, you can now start using the SuRe® label and promoting your certification status. Certification is valid for 5 years.

Maintaining Certification

How long will your SuRe® certification last?

Your SuRe® certification will last up to 5 years. During this time, your project will need to make required improvements and will be subject to yearly surveillance audits by the appointed certification body (CB). The purpose of the audits is to determine if The Project continues to satisfy the requirements of SuRe®.

If significant changes are made to your project after certification, you will need to report them to your certification body who will determine whether your certification status is impacted and advise on next steps.

Recertification

On the fourth year of the validity of the Certification, projects may apply for re-certification through their selected certification body.

Frequently Asked Questions

This section provides answers to common questions and additional information on the standard. GIB is also happy to answer additional queries you may have.

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How much does the SuRe® Certification cost?

Costs can vary depending on the size, complexity, stage of development and availability of information relating to your infrastructure project. We advise that you contact a SuRe® representative who can guide you through the process, and give you a better understanding of the costs relevant to your project.

Assessments are conducted by independent certification bodies and their selected auditors who are responsible for their own pricing structure. You will need to determine the assessment costs with the certification body you have chosen. (For a complete list of the current accredited SuRe® certification bodies, refer to SuRe®'s website¹).

¹Note: Currently GIB is in the process of selecting and training certification bodies on SuRe®v1.0, please contact GIB to explore opportunities for choosing certification bodies.

As a guide, the following table shows approximate costs you may expect, however actual costs may vary significantly from project to project.

Indicative Costs of Assessment for SuRe® Certification

	Project CAPEX \$10 - 50m	Project CAPEX \$50 - 100m	Project CAPEX >\$100m
Approx. Assessment Cost for Project in Design Stage:	\$30k USD	\$40k USD	\$50k USD
Approx. Assessment Cost for Project in 'As Built' stage	\$40k USD	\$50k USD	\$60k USD



How long will it take to get my project SuRe® certified?

Similarly to cost, the time required for certification can vary depending on the size, complexity, stage of development and availability of information relating to your infrastructure project. As a guide, the following timeline shows what you may expect, however, actual timelines may vary significantly from project to project.

Indicative Timeline for Certification

Stage	Month	Milestone
0 Project Preparation (optional)	1 - 12 months before formal certification Process begins	Project gets familiar with SuRe® criteria.
1 Registration	1	Project registered and information received.
2 Self-assessment	1	Self- materiality assessment complete.
3 Certification Body Engagement	1	Certification Body selected and engaged, gap analysis complete.
Public Consultation	1-2	30 for all stakeholders to comment
4 Independent Third-Party Audit	2 -3	Audit completed (desk reviews and site visits). Draft Report completed
6 Final Report & Certification Recommendation	3 -4	Final report issued and certification recommendation made.
7 Certificate Granted!	4-5	Certificate issued!

Does GIB offer Capacity Development Services connected to SuRe®?

Yes! GIB offers tailored Capacity Development Services to assist you to build your understanding of sustainability and resilience in infrastructure, and to assist preparing your projects to meet the SuRe® Standard. However, please note that undergoing capacity building from GIB does in no way guarantee successful compliance against SuRe®.

Please contact us for more information.

Who will have access to Project Data?

Your assessment team and GIB will be subject to a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA), which will prevent sensitive data being accessed by third parties.

How would the SuRe® Certification assist to attract funding for my project?

The SuRe® Standard has been developed through a rigorous multi-stakeholder process ensuring compliance with institutions such as ISEAL (International Social and Environmental Accreditation and Labeling Alliance) and aligning certain criteria to relevant standards such as Equitable Origin. Furthermore, the SuRe® Standard covers the requirements of many sources of infrastructure investment, such as the Equator Principles, International Finance Corporation (IFC) Performance standards; and is compatible with other international frameworks such as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Climate Change Convention (UNFCCC). A SuRe® certification communicates these benefits to investors who require them.

Contact us

Visit our website: www.gib-foundation.org, or contact one of the SuRe® Standard team at SuRe@gib-foundation.org.



www.gib-foundation.org