



SuRe® – the Standard for Sustainable and Resilient Infrastructure

Overview of public consultation comments

Background

On 14 August 2017, the SuRe® Secretariat launched its second round of public consultation on SuRe® – the Standard for Sustainable and Resilient Infrastructure (SuRe® hereafter) – which lasted until 12 September 2017 (a total of 30 days).

Stakeholders were invited to comment on seven documents, all of which were made available on the website of Global Infrastructure Basel Foundation (GIB hereafter):

- a) **“ST01 - The SuRe® Normative Standard”**, which details the SuRe® Standard’s criteria and scoring system.
- b) **“MA02 – Terms of Reference”**, a document describing the background, objectives, risks and expected outcomes of SuRe®
- c) **“MA04 – Work Programme”**, outlining the timeline of activities which GIB as scheme owner will complete in order to guarantee the SuRe® Standard is developed according to the objectives of its stakeholders.
- d) **“PR01 – Standard Setting Procedures”**, which provides an overview of the processes for development and revision of SuRe®, established to comply with the International Social and Environmental Accreditation Labelling (ISEAL) Code of Good Practice for Setting Social and Environmental Standards v6.0 (2014).
- e) **“PR03 – Complaints Procedure”**, which details the Complaints Procedure for SuRe® and was also written in accordance with the ISEAL Standard-Setting Code v6.0 (2014) requirements;
- f) **“PR05 – Transition Procedures”**, which was created with the purpose of describing the transition policy when one version of the Standard is superseded by a newer version.
- g) **“GO01 – Governance Bodies Terms of Reference”**, which gives an overview of the mandate and selection processes of the Governance Bodies for SuRe®

Public consultation – overview

Stakeholders including project developers and construction firms, financial services professionals and investors, representatives of the public sector at all levels, civil society and academia were invited to join the consultation through regular and personalised emails, banners on GIB’s website, the GIB newsletter as well as posts on adequate content groups on LinkedIn and Facebook.

The SuRe® Secretariat received 193 written submissions as part of their third round of public consultation. In addition to this, fourteen participants of the SuRe® Stakeholder Council Webinar on 9 August 2017 gave verbal comments and feedback on specific issues.

A detailed overview of the received comments, responses and implemented changes can be found [here](#). In this overview it is also possible to see in detail the representation of the sectors and regions that the stakeholders belonged to. In general terms, the geographical regions from the stakeholders were Europe, North America, Latin America, Africa with countries such as The United States, Mexico, Colombia, Switzerland, South Africa, The Netherlands, Kuwait, The United Kingdom, France, among others.

A summary of the most relevant changes to The Standard in transition from version 0.41 to 1.0 can be seen in the following:

1. Changes to the Structure of Criteria

- Minor changes to criteria headings to clarify which sections are normative (Requirements) and non-normative (Guidance), and to improve consistency.

2. Changes to the Content of Criteria

- Theme E1 Climate:
 - Criteria updated to specifically mention embodied carbon; construction phase emissions; and induced emissions, which were previously more generally covered.
- Theme E2 Biodiversity and Ecosystems:
 - Minor changes to specifically mention ecosystem services, and the risk that projects may enable third parties to impact protected areas (for example, roads built through non-protected areas, which enable new access to protected areas, thereby threatening these areas).
- Theme E4 Natural Resources:
 - Minor changes to improve consistency between performance levels.

3. Changes to the Intended Implementation of the Standard

- Retroactive and retrospective compliance with criteria – wording updated so that If a project is unable to demonstrate retrospective or retroactive compliance with required criteria, it shall be considered ineligible for certification in the future, unless it can demonstrate that it has taken appropriate mitigation measures, which are approved on a case by case basis by GIB.

Changes programmed for the future

Some comments received included recommendations that, due to their complexity, need further research and/or testing and will therefore be included in the next review process of the Standard. The detail of these comments can be found in [here](#). The main future items include:

- Develop guidance specifically for developing countries: to be developed through time implementing lessons learned from projects assessed.
- Scoring System and Criteria testing and upgrade: trade-off of between Dimensions, Safeguarding Red Criteria un-clustering by Themes, Inter linkages of related environmental criteria in Themes E2, E3 and E4 and further research on other SuRe® Criteria such as analysis of "intergenerational fairness" beyond what is currently covered under Criteria S3.4.

More information and next steps

Following the comments received as part of the public consultation, a revised version of the SuRe® Standard (version 1.0 - working draft) was submitted for review and approval to the Standard Board on 26 October 2017. Once finalised, SuRe®- the Standard for Sustainable and Resilient Infrastructure version 1.0 will be released during COP23 in Bonn in November 2017.

For more information about how comments were received and how these have been (or are going to be) addressed, please contact the SuRe® Secretariat by email via sure@gib-foundation.org.