

Sustainable and Resilience Criteria for projects of the Infrastructure Financing and Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) Network of Asia and the Pacific

INTRODUCTION


Sustainable and resilient infrastructure is an essential foundation for achieving inclusive and sustainable growth, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the objectives of the Paris Agreement. Resilience is the ability of a hum, market-related, climate-related—and withstand them. Climate resilience is strengthening a system to withstand climate-related shocks or stressors where adaptation and resilience intersect. It seeks to ensure the capacity of a system to cope with, or recover from, these shocks, while retaining the essential components of the original system.

The purpose of this criteria is to lay out a set of widely agreed upon sustainability and resilience criteria for projects that the ESCAP PPP Network will engage with. While it is not possible to certify the outcome of a project, these criteria are to help ensure that projects align with the SDGs, using the provided indicators to guide implementation. It is designed to make a meaningful contribution to sustainability and environmental resilience, and to help attract the growing sources of financing seeking sustainable projects, while still being realistically attainable for all members of the PPP Network.

Effective implementation of the suggested set of sustainable infrastructure criteria can provide a strong foundation for achieving key SDGs. It can also help provide greater access to a wide range of official and private financing sources for participating countries.

Alignment of the Criteria with the Sustainable Development Goals

The table below displays the alignment of the criteria with the SDGs, based on and expanding upon the Inter-American Development Bank’s *MDB Infrastructure Cooperation Platform* and its work in consolidating the mapping carried out by the agencies whose frameworks/initiatives these guidelines draw from.

	Environmental Sustainability and Resilience Criteria						Social Sustainability Criteria	
	Criterion 1. Greenhouse Emissions Reduction/Avoidance	Criterion 2. Environmental Resilience	Criterion 3. Biodiversity	Criterion 4. Pollution Control & Monitoring	Criterion 5. Efficient Use of Materials & Waste Reduction	Criterion 6. Energy & Water Efficiency	Criterion 7. Health & Safety	Criterion 8. Stakeholder Engagement
GOAL 1: No Poverty								
GOAL 2: Zero Hunger								
GOAL 3: Good Health and Well-being								
GOAL 4: Quality Education								
GOAL 5: Gender Equality								
GOAL 6: Clean Water and Sanitation								
GOAL 7: Affordable and Clean Energy								
GOAL 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth								
GOAL 9: Industry, Innovation & Infrastructure								
GOAL 10: Reduced Inequality								
GOAL 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities								
GOAL 12: Responsible Consumption & Production								
GOAL 13: Climate Action								
GOAL 14: Life Below Water								
GOAL 15: Life on Land								
GOAL 16: Peace and Justice Strong Institutions								
GOAL 17: Partnerships to achieve the Goals								

CRITERION 1. GREENHOUSE EMISSIONS REDUCTION/AVOIDANCE

Infrastructure projects should help reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions. Infrastructure projects should be aligned both with national GHG reduction policies and targets and international commitments such as the Paris Agreement to combat global warming. GHG emissions assessments should consider the full life cycle of the project.

CRITERION 2. ENVIRONMENTAL RESILIENCE

Infrastructure projects should, as much as is feasible, be resilient to current and future climate and weather shocks – climate change-related and otherwise – (i.e. both slow and rapid onset events). Resilience considerations should be considered during the full cycle of the project addressing current and future climate change scenarios. Direct and indirect climate risks should be assessed and managed through a climate impact assessment and an adaptation and recovery plan in accordance with national disaster management frameworks.

CRITERION 3. BIODIVERSITY

Infrastructure projects should avoid negative impacts on biodiversity as a whole, while promoting conservation strategies. The environmental risks and impacts derived from an infrastructure project should be assessed, managed, and monitored during the entire life cycle in accordance with international standards.

CRITERION 4. POLLUTION CONTROL & MONITORING

Infrastructure projects should avoid, assess, mitigate, and manage the adverse impacts of pollution on human health and the environment. Any form of pollution caused by the project activities (including air, water, land, noise, and vibration, or the use of hazardous chemicals) should be minimized during every phase of the project. Full lifecycle pollution management plans and monitoring mechanisms that follow good international industry practices and regulatory requirements should be in place.

CRITERION 5. EFFICIENT USE OF MATERIALS & WASTE REDUCTION

Infrastructure projects should be planned and designed considering the efficient use of materials and the integration of reducing, reusing, and recycling practices. Infrastructure projects should implement a waste management plan to monitor and define programmes that allow for the substitution, recycling, and recovery of those subproducts.

CRITERION 6. ENERGY & WATER EFFICIENCY

Infrastructure projects should monitor and promote the efficient and sustainable use of water and energy (including renewable sources) during the life cycle of the project. The use of water and energy resources during the project must not jeopardize community access to food, land, and water resources.

CRITERION 7. HEALTH & SAFETY

Infrastructure projects should assess, evaluate, and manage project impacts and risks on community health and safety over the project cycle, assuring that project activities do not increase security risks for local populations. At the same time, infrastructure projects should ensure a safe working environment for all workers by establishing occupational health and safety standards.

CRITERION 8. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Infrastructure projects should identify and engage stakeholders and affected communities to fully understand their needs and incorporate them into the project. Official public consultation, grievance mechanisms and other engagement processes should be in place to ensure the adequate participation of the affected parties. There should be efforts to in particular take into account the perspectives of minority groups and indigenous groups likely to be affected.