**Sustainability Standard Setting Bodies**

**Relevant Green Bond Market Information on Sustainability Standards Form[[1]](#footnote-1)**

Forms filled in by standard setters should be sent back to [greenbonds@icmagroup.org](mailto:greenbonds@icmagroup.org), for publication on the [Green Bond Principles Resource Centre](https://www.icmagroup.org/green-social-and-sustainability-bonds/resource-centre/).

**Section 1. Basic Information**

**Organization name:**

**Name of sustainability standard*:[[2]](#footnote-2)*** *[specify as appropriate]*

**Completion date of this form:**

**Publication date of the standard:** *[where appropriate, specify if it is an update and add reference to earlier relevant standard]*

**Section 2. Detailed review**

*Standard setters are encouraged to provide the information below to the extent possible and use the comment section to explain the scope of their review.*

**1. Green Bond Principles (GBP) project categories relevant to the standard**

**Overall comment on section** *(if applicable)***:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **GBP[[3]](#footnote-3) Project categories that the standard applies to (*for additional information on the GBP see appendix 1*):** | | | |
|  | Renewable energy |  | Energy efficiency |
|  | Pollution prevention and control |  | Environmentally sustainable management of living natural resources and land use |
|  | Terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity conservation |  | Clean transportation |
|  | Sustainable water and wastewater management |  | Climate change adaptation |
|  | Eco-efficient and/or circular economy adapted products, production technologies and processes |  | Green buildings |
|  |  |  | Other *(please specify)*: |

If applicable please specify the environmental taxonomy or category, if other than GBPs:

**2. Alignment with relevant international targets, thresholds and guidelines for sustainability**

Please explain how alignment with international targets, thresholds and guidelines for sustainability are built into your governance frameworks and standard setting process. A non-exhaustive list of examples includes: ISEAL code compliant, alignment with EU Taxonomy for sustainable activities, Paris Climate Agreement, UN Global Compact, etc.

**Please explain** *(if applicable)***:**

**3. Main Characteristics (please choose all options that apply to the standard)**

**Governance**

1. **Leadership or ownership** *(What type of institution runs the standard?)*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| For-profit | Public |
| Non-profit | Hybrid (please provide more details below) |
| Non-governmental | Membership based |
| Multistakeholder | Other (*please specify):* |

1. **Standard scheme management**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| The scheme owner has a sustainability-oriented mission or vision | The scheme owner has defined and makes publicly available its desired long-term sustainability impacts and strategy for achieving those impacts |
| Stakeholders have an opportunity to provide input on the intended sustainability impacts and possible unintended effects of the standards system | On a regular basis, the scheme owner monitors and evaluates progress towards its sustainability impacts and accurately and publicly communicates the results |
| The scheme owner applies adaptive management by using the learning from monitoring and evaluation to improve its standard and supporting strategies | The scheme owner carries out internal or external audits of its management system and operations at least annually and incorporates the findings |
| The scheme owner makes information on the governance structure and income sources or financing structure of the scheme publicly available | Stakeholders have the possibility to participate in or provide formal input on the governance of the scheme |
| The scheme is registered under ISEAL membership |  |

1. **Standard-setting characteristics**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Documented procedures for the process under which each standard is developed or revised form the basis of the standard setting process | Documented procedures for the process under which each standard is developed or revised shall be made available to stakeholders, at a minimum through the organisation’s website |
| A regular review of the standard setting procedures is conducted (at least every 5 years) | A regular review of the standard is conducted (at least every 5 years) |
| Participation in governance bodies making decisions on the content of the standard are constituted by a balance of key stakeholders | Participation in governance bodies making decisions on the content of the standard are open to all stakeholders |
| Participation in governance bodies making decisions on the content of the standard are limited to members, but the procedure for becoming a member is transparent and non-discriminatory | Other (*Please specify*): |

**Sustainability Claims and Communications**

1. **Communication Channel** *(Who is using the standard to communicate, and who is the target of that communication?)*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Communication from: | Communication to: |
| Business (excluding financial institutions) | Business (excluding financial institutions) |
| Government | Government |
| Bank | Bank |
| Insurance Company | Insurance Company |
| Development Bank | Development Bank |
| Investor | Investor |
| Asset owner (e.g. Building) | Asset manager (e.g. Building) |
| NGO | Consumer |
| Other (*please specify):* | Other (*please specify):* |

1. **Means of communication** *(What is the mode of communication to the target audience?)*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Seal(logo) | Trademark |
| Declaration | Exception |
| Certificate | Other (*please specify):* |

1. **Communication scope** *(What activities are covered by the communication?)*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Agriculture and food | Textile products |
| Furniture | Energy |
| Timber forest products | Transportation |
| Non-timber forest products (rubber, cork, bamboo) | Tourism |
| Paper, packaging | Transportation |
| Cleaning products | Tourism |
| Biofuels | Luxury Products |
| Electronics | Sustainable Sites & Locations |
| Cosmetics | Water |
| Building materials | Indoor Air Quality/Health |
| Waste | Other (p*lease specify):* |
| Ecosystem Services |  |

**Standard Characteristics**

1. **Monitoring and auditing[[4]](#footnote-4)***(Who has the ability to determine whether the standard is met and what degree of independence exists?)*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Standard setter | External certifier |
|  |  |
| Self-assessment | Second party verifier |
| Accredited third party certifier/verifier | Other (*please specify*): |

1. **Adoption of the standard** *(To what extent are relevant organizations required to apply the standard?)*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Voluntary | Mandatory (*please explain*): |
|  | Other (*please specify):* |

1. **Sustainability characteristics**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Environmental outcomes are clearly and explicitly defined in the standards | The standard exceeds regulatory requirements |
| The standard references relevant, existing national and/or international laws and regulations | Other (*please specify):* |

1. **Transparency** *(To what extent is relevant information publicly available?)*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Final versions of the standard available to the public | Draft version of the standard available to the public |
| Public disclosure on standard setting process | Public disclosure on assessments of compliance with the standard |
| Public disclosure of compliance by standard user | Public disclosure on those complying with the standard (organizations and the level/type of compliance achieved) |
| Final versions of the standard in additional languages are available to the public | Other (*please specify*): |

1. **Methods of environmental assessment** *(How comprehensive is the standard in accounting for environmental impact?)*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Life cycle approach (please specify which environmental goals) | Operating/process/practice approach (please specify which environmental goals): |
| Performance based or impact approach (please specify which environmental goals) | Other (please specify method and which environmental goals it applies to): |

**Please explain any requirements to embed mechanisms/tools for future reporting, requirements to report on selected criteria and reporting scope, as well as the environmental goals being assessed:**

1. **Resolving complaints**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| The standard-setting organization shall make impartial and documented efforts to resolve procedural complaints related to standard-setting, based on a publicly document complaints resolution mechanism | The standard-setting organization shall disclose, at least to interested parties, decisions taken on procedural complaints |
|  | Other (*please specify*): |

1. **Standard focus** *(To what type of processes do the standards apply?)*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Product related process and production methods (please specify): | Non product related processes and production methods (please specify): |
| Services (please specify): | Other (*please specify*): |

1. **Standard scope:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| International | Regional |
| National | Jurisdictional |
|  | Other (*Please specify*): |

1. **Activities beyond certification:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Platform for discussion and collaboration amongst members and certified entities | Platform for discussion and collaboration amongst other standards addressing the same sector/activity/topic |

**4. Alignment with Sustainable Development Goals (please choose all options that apply to the standard)**

**Overall comment on section** *(please rank the SDGs by level of contribution of the standard and specify the scale of contribution to each of the relevant SDGs)***:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| SDG 1 | SDG 2 |
| SDG 3 | SDG 4 |
| SDG 5 | SDG 6 |
| SDG 7 | SDG 8 |
| SDG 9 | SDG 10 |
| SDG 11 | SDG 12 |
| SDG 13 | SDG 14 |
| SDG 15 | SDG 16 |
| SDG 17 |  |

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1. *The Form follows the characterisations of Environmental Labelling and Information Schemes as set out in OECD Environment Woking Papers No.62 – A characterisation of Environmental Labelling and Information Schemes* [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. *Use separate forms for each standard if multiple standards are set by the same standard setting body and the criteria of those standards differ significantly from one another* [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. [*https://www.icmagroup.org/green-social-and-sustainability-bonds/green-bond-principles-gbp/*](https://www.icmagroup.org/green-social-and-sustainability-bonds/green-bond-principles-gbp/) [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. *Whom has the ability to determine whether the standard is applied?* [↑](#footnote-ref-4)