European Bank
for Reconstruction and Development

Sustainable Public Procurement

Guidance note

1 September 2026

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Sustainable Public Procurement

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1. Purpose

As specifically set out in Section III, Articles 1.8 and 3.41 PPR, sustainable economic development is integral to the Bank's operations.

This Guidance is intended to support Clients, the Bank's project teams, as well as other external stakeholders in relation to Sustainable Public Procurement and its application in Public Sector Operations. Its aim is that the Bank's project teams and Clients consider, where appropriate, opportunities for sustainable procurement measures early in the project cycle. If any such opportunities have been identified, further discussion would be needed to properly incorporate any agreed targets or methodologies in the relevant procurement documents, as well as ensuring their implementation and monitoring.

This Guidance is a "living document" which is expected to be updated as SPP develops and, going forward, will frequently be complemented by good practice examples as the SPP approach is implemented in Bank financed projects.

2. Definitions

Terms used in this Guidance have the following meanings:

AEB	means the Agreement Establishing the Bank.
Client	means an entity that is seeking or has obtained funding, directly or indirectly, in relation to a Bank Operation.
Contractor	means a contractor, supplier, service provider, or consultant under a Bank-financed Contract.
ESDD	Environmental and Social Due Diligence.
ESIA	Environmental and Social Impact Assessment.
ESMP	Environmental and Social Management Plan.
ESP	means the Bank's Environmental and Social Policy.
GET	means the Bank's Green Economic Transition strategy to support the transition to resilient, low carbon economies.
Life-Cycle Costing	means the consideration of all costs associated with a Good or Service throughout its entire life span.

Local Labour	means nationals of the Client's country engaged in performing a Works contract, whether employed directly by the Contractor or through subcontractors.
MDB	means Multilateral Development Banks.
PPR	means the Bank's Procurement Policies and Rules as amended from time to time.
SPP	means Sustainable Public Procurement.
Standard Procurement Document	means the model procurement documents as published on the Bank's website: https://www.ebrd.com/procurement/project-procurement/standard-procurement-documents.html
Value Engineering	refers to a systematic contractual approach intended to improve the value of a project, product, process, design, materials, construction methods, and overall project lifecycle with the objective to reduce costs, enhance performance or functionality, improve efficiency, and ensure sustainability without compromising quality, safety, or performance.
Value for Money	means achieving the best possible balance between the benefits gained and the costs incurred throughout a project's lifecycle, ensuring the investment results in the most efficient, effective, and sustainable outcomes relative to the resources utilised.

Terms not defined in this Guidance have the same meaning as set out in the PPR and ESP.

Guidance note
Sustainable Public Procurement

3. Scope

3. Scope

3.1. Introduction

3.1.1. Background

The EBRD's mandate to promote in the full range of its activities environmentally sound and sustainable development is anchored in Article 2.1. (vii) of the AEB. This mandate is essentially operationalised through the application of the ESP in projects financed by the Bank. Resulting from these requirements, which need to be reflected in the legal agreements between a Client and the Bank, and as explicitly stipulated in Section III, Articles 1.8 and 3.41 PPR, sustainability aspects should be reflected by Clients in procurement processes for Goods, Works, Services, as well as Consultancy Services under Bank-financed projects. The sustainability aspects articulated in this Guidance can be achieved by applying the principles, methods and processes under SPP.

Consequently, all mandatory environmental, social, labour, and health and safety conditions, and any project specific conditions, such as arising from assessments of environmental and social impacts must be developed to supplement these and ensure compliance with the ESP, are incorporated in the Standard Procurement Documents. This Guidance builds on these requirements and provides guidance for inclusion, where relevant and appropriate, of additional sustainability criteria in the procurement process for a Bank-financed Contract.

If required in legal agreements in relation to a project, sustainability requirements shall be reflected in the procurement documents, including the contractual terms, for a specific procurement process for a Bank financed contract, including those promoting green, resilience, and inclusive considerations provided that these requirements are consistent with the PPR. Sustainable procurement practices, in this case, are integral not only to the success of a specific Bank Operation, but also to the Bank's overarching sustainability goals, ensuring that a Bank Operation contributes positively to the environment and society in its Countries of Operation.

3.1.2. Meaning of Sustainable Public Procurement

SPP is a systematic approach to identifying and encouraging the procurement of Goods, Works, Services, as well as Consultancy Services that are assessed to be less damaging to the environment during their production, use, and disposal than other Goods, Works, Services or Consultancy Services that serve the same purpose, while also considering economic, social, and institutional impacts.

SPP is an approach that is under constant development. What began as green procurement incorporating only environmental product criteria has grown to encompass social performance criteria as well as economic and institutional goals to further the notion of sustainable development.

SPP is a strategic approach that promotes the integration of the four pillars of sustainable development, i.e., economic development, social development, environmental protection, and quality institutional governance.

It involves a high degree of collaboration and engagement between all parties across the entire supply chain. Whilst this Guidance only addresses sustainable procurement in public sector projects, the principles of SPP may also be relevant to private sector operations.

SPP fosters innovation and supports fair opportunities for local enterprises, thereby reducing dependence on global supply chains, to the extent that these measures are consistent with the PPR and the AEB. SPP also encourages green, inclusive decarbonisation strategies. The integration of net-zero technologies and resilience considerations is essential to this approach.

3.1.3. Resilience Considerations

One of the key concepts in the context of SPP is resilience. This involves not only ensuring Value for Money through strategic procurement planning but also strengthening the resilience of energy systems, supply chains and promoting climate neutrality.

Resilience in public procurement means that a Client, through the procurement of Goods, Works, Services, and Consultancy Services, is better equipped to anticipate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from disruptive events, such as climate change impacts and supply chain disruptions, whilst maintaining essential functions.

Typically, resilience considerations may be categorised as follows:

- Supply Chain Continuity
    a. ensuring that critical goods, services, and infrastructure projects are not disrupted during emergencies.
    b. diversifying supply chains to reduce reliance on a single supplier or geographical region.
- Strategic Procurement Planning
    a. Incorporating risk assessments and contingency plans into procurement strategies.
    b. Focusing on long-term sustainability and robustness of suppliers and contracts.
- Sustainability and Innovation
    a. Promoting green and circular procurement to enhance environmental resilience.
    b. Encouraging innovative solutions that make systems more adaptive to changing circumstances.
- Development of domestic industrial and human capacity
    a. Developing a skilled local work force, including training and apprenticeship.
    b. Local job creation.
    c. Fair labour conditions.
- Policy Integration and Cooperation
    a. Aligning procurement policies with broader national or multi-national resilience objectives.
    b. Strengthening cross-border cooperation to address shared vulnerabilities.

In the context of EBRD operations, it is acknowledged that resilience aspects shall normally only be considered on the level of the project to be financed. Considering the long-term perspective of resilience, these aspects should be coordinated with a Client's long-term planning and action plans.

As with other key sustainability considerations, resilience aspects need to be considered at and incorporated in all stages of the project procurement cycle, as further detailed in Section 6 below.

The incorporation of resilience aspects in the procurement processes of an EBRD financed project shall facilitate a Client's use of the resilience concept in their planning and procurement processes where the resulting contracts are not financed by EBRD.

It is essential for Clients to consider the incorporation of sustainability aspects, including resilience considerations, in the procurement process for a specific project. However, this Guidance encourages, but does not mandate, the incorporation of additional sustainability considerations in different stages of procurement activities in a Public Sector Operation. The Client, upon consultation with the Bank, shall incorporate the sustainable procurement interventions throughout the project cycle for each specific Operation.

3.2. Applicability

This Guidance is applicable to a Public Sector Operation in accordance with Section III, Article 3 PPR, unless procurements processes are conducted under Section III, Articles 3.27 (procurement of Commodities), 3.28 (procurement under National Laws) or 3.29 (procurement by Utilities). This Guidance is not applicable to the procurements of Goods, Works, Services or Consultancy Services which are excluded from the PPR in accordance with Section III, Article 2.6 PPR, as well as Private Sector Operations in Section III, Article 4 PPR.

3.3. SPP in the Project Context

3.3.1. SPP Principles

Procuring in a sustainable way involves looking beyond short-term needs and considering the longer-term impacts of each project and procurement process. Clients practising SPP meet their needs for Goods, Works, Services, and Consultancy Services not on a private cost-benefit analysis, but with a view to maximising net benefits and / or Value for Money for themselves and potentially the wider world. In practice, the sustainable impacts of a potential Contractor's approach are often divided into the categories of environmental, economic, social, and institutional as below.

- Environmental, which includes:
    a. Environmental resource management
    b. Urban planning
    c. CO2 reduction
    d. Alternative energies: e.g. solar, wind
    e. Water and wastewater management
    f. Sustainable agriculture
    g. Protection of ecosystems

   h. Pollution and waste management
   i. Clean drinking water

- Social, which includes:
   a. Human rights, including labour rights
   b. Ethical supply chain
   c. Cultural and indigenous empowerment
   d. Fair pay and decent work
   e. Local skills and employability development
   f. Health and safety
   g. Gender equality, including universal education, women-owned businesses
   h. Land acquisition

- Economic, which includes:
   a. Economic regeneration
   b. Sustainable economic development
   c. Emerging markets
   d. Development of small and medium enterprises
   e. Total cost of ownership and life cycle
   f. Value for money
   g. Supply chain capacity development

- Institutional, which includes:
   a. Business ethics
   b. Sustainable institutional development
   c. Governance and management
   d. Relations with the community
   e. Equality
   f. Encouraging strengthening systems
   g. MAPS – Sustainable Public Procurement Module[1]
   h. Use of country systems
   i. Policies and targets

[1] MAPS (Methodology for Assessing Procurement Systems). Sustainable Public Procurement Supplementary Module - https://www.mapsinitiative.org/methodology/supplementary-modules/sustainable-procurement.

3.3.2. Opportunities and Challenges of SPP / Value for Money

Traditional procurement typically prioritised cost and efficiency. In contrast, SPP adopts a broader perspective on Value for Money, emphasising the utilisation of resources to create and to deliver long-term value. In the public sector, this value is recognised as public value, which encompasses capital and resource expenditure, asset management, and revenue generation. Public value refers to the overall well-being of the public within a city, region, or country. In the context of the Bank's investments, this covers all economic, social and environmental impacts of a contract or a project as a whole.[2]

Whilst SPP offers many benefits, there are also risks and challenges that need to be considered. Practising SPP may incur a premium to gain the identified benefits.

The following aspects should be considered when applying sustainability considerations to a particular project or contract[3]:

- Financial: Reduce total operating costs by procuring more efficient and sustainable Goods, Works, Services or Consultancy Service that:
    a. develop the market's capacities to deliver sustainable solutions;
    b. increase demand for sustainable solutions, which in turn increases market competitiveness;
    c. promote innovative and more sustainable outcomes;
    d. incur cost savings on a long-term basis by applying Life-Cycle Costing and operation and maintenance considerations; and
    e. minimise disposal costs and environmental impacts of products at their end of life.
- Risk Management: Engage in mapping economic, legal, environmental, and social sustainability threats and opportunities, and develop management approaches.
- Strategic Alignment: Reflect the Client's organisational culture, values, and ethics in accordance with relevant policies.
- Stakeholder Expectations: It is important to take account of social responsibility and sustainability issues. Beyond the requirements established by the Bank in its other policies (in particular: ESP), these can be further enhanced by using SPP approaches.
- Market Appeal: Performance in terms of social responsibility and sustainability may impact a Client or project's image and enhance competition. Implementing SPP may attract other financial investors, boost labour markets, attract more innovative companies to submit proposals, and further contribute to the transition impact of a project.
- Capacity Building:
    a. Consider how contract implementation may support broader capacity building objectives. This may include requiring Contractors to provide on the job training or knowledge transfer opportunities for local workers, thereby contributing to long-term development outcomes aligned with the project's sustainability goals.

[2] See EBRD Value for Money in Public Procurement Guidance on the EBRD website.

[3] See also Asian Development Bank Guidance on Sustainable Public Procurement (December 2021) - https://www.adb.org/documents/sustainable-public-procurement.

b. Procurement processes can be designed to promote positive labour outcomes. For example, contract conditions may encourage contractors to support local employment or apprenticeships during delivery, provided these conditions remain consistent with the PPR and non-discriminatory practices.

Justifying and demonstrating the realisation of benefits of SPP, particularly quantifying the impacts on the environment and social conditions, can be challenging. As such, it is important to identify the specific focus areas and approach on results measurement early on in the SPP process.

3.4. Strategic Alignment of SPP

Based on the relevant provisions in the PPR and the ESP, the Bank's approach to SPP aligns with the initiatives under the Bank's GET programme. Since the end of 2022, the Bank has ensured that all its operations align with the mitigation and adaptation goals of the Paris Agreement and the SDGs[4], adopted by the international community in 2015. In the context of SPP, two targets under SDG 12 – Responsible Consumption and Production - are particularly significant. These are:

- Target 12.6: Encourage companies, especially large transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycles;
- Target 12.7: Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities.

These targets provide both a benchmark and a directional compass for the Bank's approach to SPP.

The Bank's approach to SPP is also embedded in EBRD's cooperation with other MDBs. In September 2023, a significant milestone was reached in the realm of SPP as the Heads of Procurement from 12 MDBs converged in Manila to issue a Joint Statement on Sustainable Procurement Initiatives[5]. This statement marks a collective commitment to mainstreaming SPP practices across their respective organisations. The MDB Heads of Procurement group's collaboration is centred around awareness building, identifying opportunities for harmonising approaches, monitoring impact, and communicating these efforts to the global community. This endeavour underlines the pivotal role MDBs play in driving sustainability and social responsibility through procurement.

3.5. Responsibilities (Clients, EBRD, Suppliers/Contractors/Consultants)

As per Section III, Article 2.10 PPR, the Client is fully responsible for implementing a Bank Operation, including all aspects of the procurement process from planning to contract award, as well as the contract administration and implementation and the resolution of claims and disputes. Consequently, the Client is responsible for incorporating any sustainability considerations in the project design and procurement documents for Bank-financed Contracts under a Public Sector Operation. The Bank will support the Client to identify viable sustainability measures and will monitor their implementation.

4 See United Nations. The 17 Goals - https://sdgs.un.org/goals.
5 Joint Statement on Sustainable Procurement Initiatives as published on the EBRD website.

Contractors are encouraged to propose innovative sustainable solutions and implement any agreed measures as per the procurement documents and contract conditions. They may also be required to follow the Value Engineering principle to further enhance any sustainability measures.

3.6. EBRD's Approach to SPP in the project procurement cycle

SPP considerations occur at various stages throughout the project procurement cycle. For the implementation of effective SPP, it is essential that SPP considerations, including resilience aspects, are already an integral part of the concept development stage of a project. It is key that the Client and the Bank collaborate from the outset to identify and determine SPP opportunities and requirements. These should be included in a fit-for-purpose procurement process. Sustainability opportunities, resilience aspects and risks ought to be managed throughout the procurement process. The assessment, analysis and procurement strategy need to be proportional to the size, nature, and complexity of a Bank-financed Contract or Bank Operation, as the case may be.

This section outlines how SPP considerations can be considered and integrated into each stage of the project procurement cycle, as shown in Diagram 1.

Diagram 1. Project Procurement Cycle

SPP considerations may be included in the above depicted phases of the project procurement cycle as follows:

3.6.1. Concept Development

Every successful project begins with a clear understanding of its context, objectives, and potential impacts. During the concept development phase, sustainability considerations need to be embedded from the outset. This is when the project takes shape - and with it, the opportunity to align with the Client and EBRD's sustainability strategies and policy commitments. Equally, at this stage, EBRD and the Client need to determine the key sustainability impacts and issues that the procurement approach will need to address.

- Clients are encouraged to identify key sustainability opportunities and risks. These may arise from: EBRD and Client's policy frameworks (economic, environmental, social, institutional sustainability).

- Local community needs and expectations.
- Broader environmental risks intrinsic to the project setting.
- Environmental and social impact assessment.
- Labour risks.
- Resilience risk assessment (e.g. supply chain fragility).

Once identified, these sustainability elements should be prioritised based on:

- The strategic importance of sustainability to the Client.
- The potential to enhance sustainable outcomes.
- The market's capacity to respond to sustainability needs.
- The resilience of supply chains.
- Cost implications – whether prohibitive, neutral, or potentially cost-saving.
- Parameters for achieving overall Value for Money.

3.6.2. Project Preparation and Structuring

This phase includes feasibility and engineering studies, Client's capacity assessment and other due diligence, in-depth economic analysis, environmental and social impact assessment, early market engagement, market analysis detailing the Client's assessment of the capacity and availability of Local Labour within the local market, development of a project delivery and the respective contracting strategies, finalisation of the procurement plan for the project. During this phase, the project context is clarified, contract inputs are estimated and costed, and expected outputs and impacts are defined.

Key steps:

- Reconfirm and detail sustainability risks and opportunities, as well as identified resilience risks.
- Clarify anticipated sustainability benefits, these may be qualitative or quantitative.
- Some of the expected sustainability benefits may not be quantifiable and the use of merit based rated criteria may be applied as outlined in the EBRD's Application of Rated Criteria Guidance.
- Market Readiness: Assess whether the market can deliver innovative or customised sustainable solutions and analyse cost implications.
- Procurement and Evaluation Strategy: Define how the project delivery strategy incorporates sustainability and resilience requirements. Possible interventions, for example, through prequalification of participants in a procurement process, multi-stage procurement process (see a more detailed description further below), use of specifications on sustainability standards, use of merit based rated criteria and/or life cycle costing analysis in evaluation (where appropriate), and sustainability evaluation criteria. Explore Value Engineering opportunities.

- Local Labour requirements in accordance with EBRD's Local Labour Guidance.
- Legal or Policy Requirements: Include applicable EBRD or national obligations related to green, sustainable, or socially responsible procurement.
- Sustainable Goods, Works, Services, Consultancy Services: Identify those with embedded sustainability features (e.g. low embodied energy, recyclability, social inclusion through employment).
- Performance incentives: Define performance incentives linked to SPP outcomes and how they will be incorporated into the requirements.

As included in the key steps above, the Bank considers that strategic market engagement and/or multi-stage procurement significantly enhance the integration of sustainability into public procurement procedures:

- Engaging with the market in advance of the formal procurement process helps Clients and the Bank understand available sustainable solutions, assess supplier capabilities, supply chain resilience, and refine requirements accordingly. This strategic dialogue fosters innovation and supports the development of procurement approaches that align with environmental and social objectives, while also ensuring realistic, market-informed expectations. Market consultations can be conducted independently by the Clients with the support of their consultants or with the support and participation of the Bank, if deemed necessary. Wherever possible, they shall be arranged online. Engaging in market consultations can generate interest from the market and increase the level of trust and confidence among potential companies interested in participating in the procurement process. The Bank has extensive experience in conducting online market consultations and can provide guidance and hands-on support to Clients during such process. The presence and support of the Bank in the consultation process provides an additional layer of comfort to participating companies. This informal exercise allows to test and optimise the envisaged procurement and contracting strategy with the market, thereby mitigating the risk of a failed tender.
- The multi-stage procurement process allows for early engagement with the market and progressive refinement of technical requirements, enabling the integration of sustainability and resilience criteria. This approach supports innovation and ensures that environmental and social, as well as resilience considerations are effectively incorporated into public procurement. It can be successfully applied by using the initial stages to assess supplier capabilities and sustainability approaches, followed by final stages focused on cost and performance evaluation. Key benefits include increased competition, enhanced clarity of technical specifications, improved Value for Money, and stronger integration of environmental and social criteria.

  Action Point: Identify any required professional support to integrate SPP into design, specifications, and procurement documents. When applicable, ensure the terms of reference for technical assistance consultants include clear SPP related tasks to be addressed during project preparation.

3.6.3. Selection of Contractors

In this critical phase, the Client prepares and issues the procurement documents, evaluates proposals, and awards the contract to the successful Contractor. All SPP-related objectives must now be reflected clearly and transparently in the procurement documents (based on the Standard Procurement Documents) and the contractual terms.

Key considerations

- Procurement Documents
  a. Embed ESMP and other relevant requirements delivered by the ESDD/ESIA.
  b. Embed relevant sustainability standards, classifications, and indicators.
  c. Address sustainability across the contract life cycle.
  d. Develop sustainability criteria, including merit based rated criteria, when appropriate and in accordance with the EBRD Guidance on Value for Money.
  e. Use performance-based specifications that require durable, adaptive, or modular designs. Require compliance with resilience standards (e.g., ISO 14090 – Adaptation to climate change), and request country-of-origin documentation, where appropriate.
  f. Include parameters to assess a Participant's capacity to manage disruptions (e.g. business continuity plans, local supply chain networks).
  g. Where appropriate and to the extent permitted by the AEB and PPR, include provisions to encourage participation from diverse and local suppliers to decentralise risk.
  h. Allow for alternative proposals with clear minimum requirements.
  i. Ensure that the technical specifications, requirements, pricing structures, and contract terms reflect SPP priorities, including any Local Labour requirements, as identified during project preparation and structuring.
  j. Verify feasibility and market attractiveness of sustainability requirements.
- Evaluation of Proposals
  a. The Client needs to receive necessary support/training to evaluate SPP criteria. The Client shall evaluate the submitted proposals against the evaluation and award criteria stated in the procurement document.
  b. The Bank will review the Client's proposal evaluation report and issue its no-objection if compliant with the agreed procedures.
- Contract Award
  a. The contract shall be awarded in accordance with the provisions as per Section III, Article 3. PPR, provided that it was submitted by an eligible and qualified Participant and none of the rejection grounds set out in Section III, Article 2.8 PPR apply.

3.6.4. Contract Implementation and Monitoring[6]

Implementation is where the planned sustainability goals are realised. Strong contract management practices must be in place to ensure obligations are met, including those related to sustainability targets.

[6] EBRD Guidance on Value for Money in Public Procurement.

Steps to take:

- Develop a contract management plan with the Contractor, outlining milestones and key performance indicators tied to sustainability objectives tied to ESMP/ESAP implementation and resilience requirements.
- Use Value Engineering to enhance Value for Money throughout delivery.
- Monitor sustainability performance through appropriate data collection and reporting systems.

Monitoring considerations:

- Use digital tools for efficient tracking and aggregation of sustainability data.
- Limit data requests to what is relevant and contractually required.
- Leverage existing reporting systems to avoid duplication.

3.6.5. Evaluation of outputs and impact

At project completion, sustainability results should be reviewed and reported transparently to the Bank. This phase is essential for:

- Verifying delivery of outputs and measurement of outcomes.
- Assessing achievement of Value for Money.
- Extracting lessons learned for future projects.

Key questions to explore:

- Were the sustainability outcomes achieved as planned?
- What challenges were encountered?
- What practices could be improved or replicated?

This reflection should involve debriefing all stakeholders, so that knowledge gained benefits future projects.

3.7. SPP Standards and Labels[7]

3.7.1. Industry Standards and Verification

In line with Section III, Article 3.45 PPR, SPP criteria should, where possible be based on verifiable standards and technical competencies including certifications, verification of an industry, environmental or social standard, codes of conduct, or management system standards.

Many international industry certifications have been established, encouraging businesses to market products and services that enhance environmental assets, improving the global supply chain, and reducing the environmental impact of production sites.

[7] See also Asian Development Bank Guidance on Sustainable Public Procurement (December 2021) - https://www.adb.org/documents/sustainable-public-procurement.

3.7.2. Sustainable Procurement Labels

Labels are useful tools when specifying SPP requirements and serve two key functions in the technical specifications:

- Help participants in a procurement process to define the sustainability characteristics of the Goods, Works, Services or Consultancy Services.
- Verifying compliance with the technical specifications via third-party certification.

Properly used, labels can streamline procurement processes and uphold high sustainability standards. When applying labels, consider the following:

- Labels must be credible and internationally recognised.
- A label must be relevant to the procurement subject matter.
- Equivalent labels must be accepted, suppliers should not be limited to one certification.

3.7.3. Recognised International Standards

Commonly used International Standards include:

- ISO 14001 Environmental Management Systems
- ISO 14020:2000 Environmental Labels and Declarations
- ISO 45001:2018 Occupational Health and safety Management
- ISO 20400:2017 on Sustainable Procurement
- SA8000[8] on Social Accountability from Social Accountability International[9]

There are various international sustainability standards and certifications such as the following:

Materials

1. FSC
2. PEFC
3. EPD (ISO 14025)
4. Responsible Steel
5. BES 6001
6. CSC
7. ISO 14001
8. ISO 9001

[8] Social Accountability International. SA8000 Standard. https://sa-intl.org/programs/sa8000/.
[9] Social Accountability International. https://sa-intl.org/.

Labour and Workforce

1. Solar Stewardship Initiative
2. SA8000
3. ISO 45001
4. SMETA
5. amfori BSCI
6. IRIS Responsible Recruitment

The Global Ecolabelling Network[10] (GEN) is a nonprofit association of third-party environmental performance recognition, certification, and labelling to search ecolabels by country and sector.

Please refer to Annex 1 for a selection of common standards and labels that may be used for SPP.

[10] Global Ecolabelling Network (GEN). https://globalecolabelling.net/.

Annex 1 – Selection SPP Standards and Labels

Standard for Sustainable Infrastructure

The FAST-Infra Label is a globally applicable label for projects demonstrating significant positive sustainability performance. It serves to define and assess the sustainability impact and qualifications of infrastructure through a comprehensive and evolving framework. This framework sets out requirements and guidance for market participants seeking to receive third-party validation for a sustainable infrastructure asset or investment, providing data transparency at all stages

Eco-Management and Audit Scheme

The Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) is a voluntary environmental management instrument, which was developed in 1993 by the European Commission. It enables organizations to assess, manage, and continuously improve their environmental performance. The scheme is globally applicable and open to all types of private and public organisations. To register with EMAS, organisations must meet the requirements of the EU EMAS-Regulation. Currently, more than 4,600 organisations and more than 7,900 sites are EMAS-registered.

Health and Safety Management (OHSAS 18001)

OHSAS 18001 is an international standard that specifies requirements for an occupational health and safety (OH&S) management system. It provides a framework for organisations to manage risks and improve OH&S performance.

The standard establishes criteria for an OH&S policy, objectives, planning, implementation, operation, auditing and review. Key elements include leadership commitment, worker participation, hazard identification and risk assessment, legal and regulatory compliance, emergency planning, incident investigation and continual improvement.

Environmental Management (ISO 14001)

ISO 14001 sets out the criteria for an environmental management system and can be certified under. It maps out a framework that a company or organisation can follow to set up an effective environmental management system. Designed for any type of organisation regardless of its activity or sector, ISO 14001 can provide assurance to company

management and employees as well as external stakeholders that environmental impact is being measured and improved.

Ecolabel Index.[11]

Ecolabel Index is the largest global directory of ecolabels, currently tracking 456 ecolabels in 199 countries, and 25 industry sectors.

GlobalEcolabelingNetwork.[12]

The Global Ecolabelling Network (GEN) is a nonprofit association of third-party, environmental

performance recognition, certification, and labelling organizations founded in 1994 to improve, promote, and develop the ecolabelling of products and services. Only environmentally friendly products and services proven to have lower environmental impact may carry a GEN member ecolabel.

11 Ecolabel Index. http://www.ecolabelindex.com/.

12 Global Ecolabelling Network. http://www.globalecolabelling.net/eco/eco-friendly-products-by-category.

The EU Ecolabel[13]

The EU Ecolabel promotes goods and services with a guaranteed reduced environmental impact throughout their entire life cycle. It helps consumers, retailers, business and procurers to make truly sustainable choices.

InternationalTradeCentre.[14]

Comprehensive, verified, and transparent information on standards for environmental protection,

worker and labour rights, economic development, quality, and food safety and business ethics.

TheFairtradeMarks[15]

A globally recognised ethical label. Products with these Marks are traceable and meet the internationally agreed social, environmental, and economic Fairtrade Standards.

[13] European Union. EU Ecolabel. https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/circular-economy/eu-ecolabel/green-procurement_en

[14] ITC Standards Map. Standards Map Free Toolkit. http://www.standardsmap.org/.

[15] Fairtrade International. https://www.fairtrade.net/about/fairtrade-marks.

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4. Disclosure
5. Effective Date
6. Decision Making Framework
7. Related Documents

4. Disclosure

This Guidance will be disclosed on the Bank's website.

5. Effective Date

This Guidance is effective from 1 September 2026.

6. Decision Making Framework

Director, Project Procurement Department, is accountable for this Guidance.

Associate Director, Environmental and Social, Project Procurement Department is responsible for this Guidance.

7. Related Documents

1. Procurement Policies and Rules, as may be amended from time to time.
2. Environmental and Social Policy, as may be amended from time to time.
3. Standard Procurement Documents.
4. Guidance on Value for Money in Public Procurement.
5. Local Labour Guidance.
6. Standard Application/Proposal Evaluation Reports.

Guidance notes: Sustainable Public Procurement

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Email: environmentandsocial@ebrd.com

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