



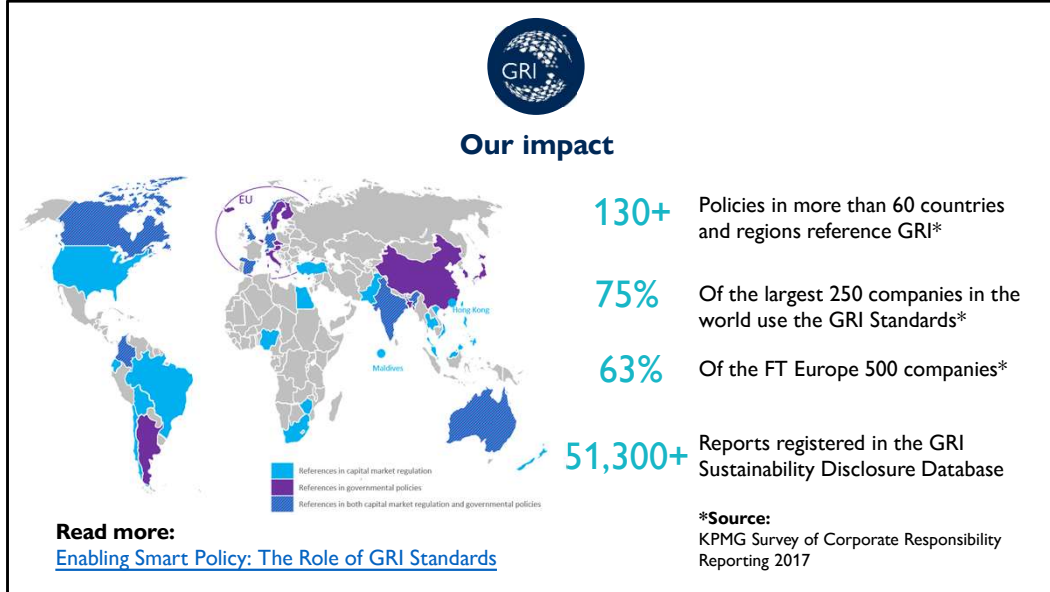
Global Reporting Initiative

The role of private sector reporting in enabling the Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework implementation

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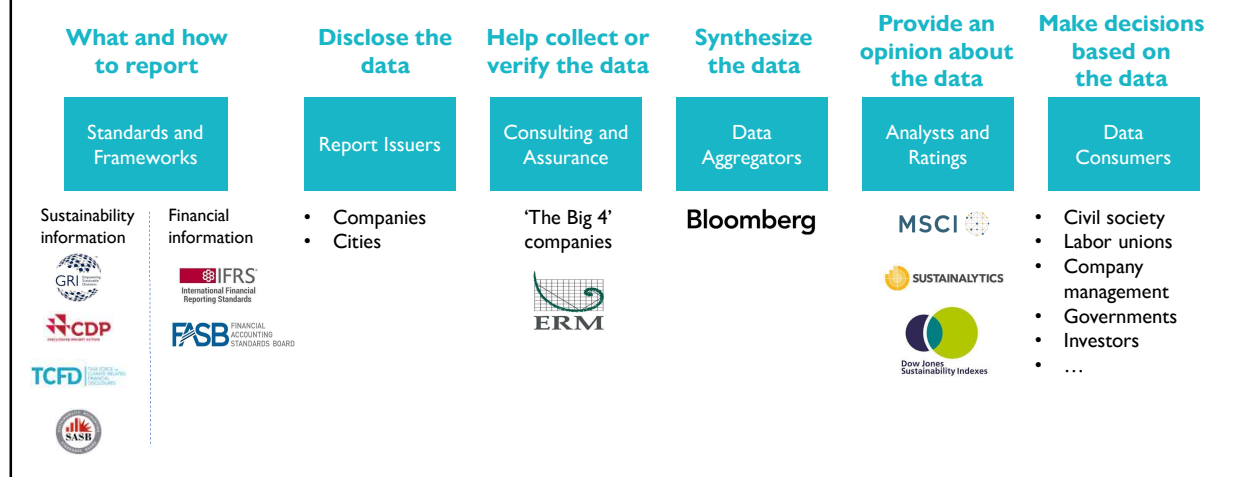
- GRI is an independent, international, nonprofit organization. It is headquartered in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, and has regional offices in Brazil, China, Colombia, India, South Africa and the United States. It was established in 1997 with the aim to set the practice of corporate [sustainability reporting](#).
- GRI's core product is the Sustainability Reporting Standards (GRI Standards). They help organizations increase their transparency and communicate both their positive and negative impacts on sustainable development. By better understanding, managing and disclosing their impacts, companies can enhance strategic decision-making, reduce risks, identify business opportunities and strengthen stakeholder relationships.
- The GRI Standards are available as a free public good in several languages



- The GRI Standards are voluntary, however, policy makers and capital market regulators are increasingly issuing policy and regulation to mandate corporate sustainability and transparency. These include, for example, governments of Sweden, France, Indonesia, South Africa and market regulators and stock exchanges in Brazil, Malaysia, Singapore, or Australia.
- Around the world, and across industries, companies apply different international norms and normative sustainability frameworks. Reporting brings these together, offering an opportunity to align frameworks, processes and narratives with one common language, coherent throughout different jurisdictions and markets. GRI Standards ensure compliance with internationally agreed frameworks to which governments worldwide are signatories.
- The GRI Standards are the most widely adopted and used framework for sustainability reporting by some of the largest companies of the world.
- Increasingly, investors such as asset managers and pension funds are considering environmental, social and governance concerns when deciding which companies to invest in. Sustainable, responsible and impact investment assets under management now exceed the total US economy and equal \$30.6 trillion (source [GSIA, 2018](#)).



GRI and the sustainability reporting landscape



- Corporate reporting and the GRI Standards do not exist in isolation and are part of the larger 'sustainability reporting landscape'.
- The GRI Standards set the foundation of what and how to report for report issuers (i.e., companies and cities). When sustainability information is reported, it 'travels' further to parties that collect, verify, analyse, and rate the data. Finally, this data and information is used by external stakeholders to understand the impact of the reporting company on the environment, economy and society.
- When calling on capturing synergies with non-state actors in the Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework, consider the volume of data that exists already and the systems that are built around collecting that data in the private sector that state parties could use to inform national reporting.



Development of the GRI Standards

The GRI Standards are developed and delivered in a way that ensures:

Multi-stakeholder input:

Balance of constituency and regional representation, public consultations, and in-depth workshops worldwide

Full transparency:

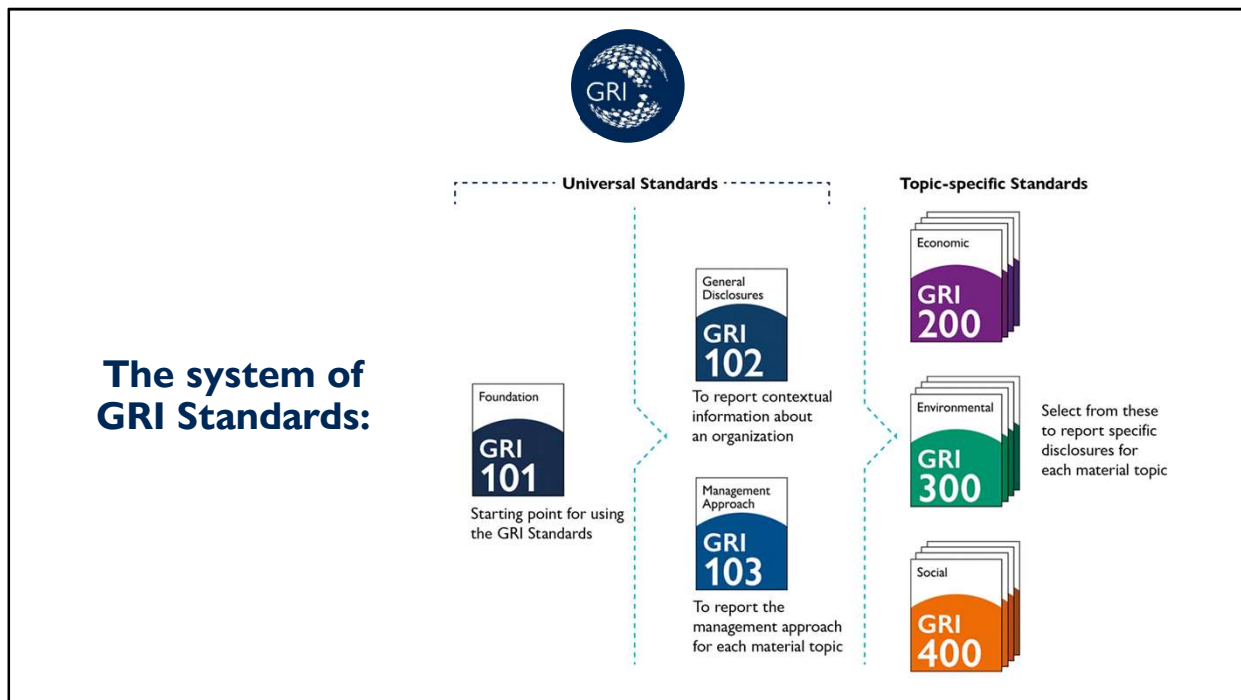
All GSSB standard-setting meetings and materials are open to the public

Learn more:

globalreporting.org/standards



- The GRI Standards are issued by the Global Sustainability Standards Board (GSSB), an independent operating entity of GRI. They are developed according to a formally defined due process overseen by the Due Process Oversight Committee (DPOC).
- Experts from different stakeholder groups across the world are involved in developing the GRI Standards using a consensus-seeking approach that builds on their diverse backgrounds and expertise. The GSSB also routinely conducts public comment periods to gather stakeholder feedback on draft Standards.
- All meetings of the GSSB and the documents discussed at these meetings, including drafts of Standards, are publicly accessible via the GRI website.
- The GSSB receives independent funding from GRI, sourced from grants, corporate programs, and revenues from GRI's support services.
- All of this helps ensure that the GRI Standards serve the public interest and can be applied by any organization worldwide.



- The sustainability reporting process begins with the organization identifying relevant topics to report on.
- Relevant topics are those that reflect the organization’s significant economic, environmental, and social impacts and that are important to its stakeholders. With the GRI Standards, these are the ‘material’ topics that the organization reports on. An organization’s material topics might be related to its activities and operations. Data privacy, for instance, might be material for a telecommunications company to report on, while child labor might be material for a garment company with extensive supply chains.
- The universal Standards support the organization in identifying its material topics, and lay out important principles to use when preparing a report. They also contain disclosures on the organization’s specific context, such as its size, activities, governance, and stakeholder engagement, all of which help to better understand its approach towards the different topics it reports on.



Topic-specific Standards



GRI 200: Economic
201: Economic Performance
202: Market Presence
203: Indirect Economic Impacts
204: Procurement Practices
205: Anti-corruption
206: Anti-competitive Behavior
207: Tax



GRI 400: Social
401: Employment
402: Labor/Management Relations
403: Occupational Health and Safety
404: Training and Education
405: Diversity and Equal Opportunity
406: Non-discrimination
407: Freedom of Association and Collective Bargaining
408: Child Labor
409: Forced or Compulsory Labor
410: Security Practices
411: Rights of Indigenous Peoples
412: Human Rights Assessment
413: Local Communities
414: Supplier Social Assessment
415: Public Policy
416: Customer Health Safety
417: Marketing and Labeling
418: Customer Privacy
419: Socioeconomic Compliance



GRI 300: Environmental
301: Materials
302: Energy
303: Water and Effluents
304: Biodiversity
305: Emissions
306: Waste
307: Environmental Compliance
308: Supplier Environmental Assessment

- The topic-specific GRI Standards contain disclosures that an organization can use to report on its impacts in relation to its material topics, and how it manages these impacts. For instance, an organization can use the GRI Standard on water and effluents to report on the impacts it has on the environment because of its water withdrawal from areas facing water stress, and how it manages these impacts.



The GRI 300 series standards (environmental)

The GRI Standards are a set of interrelated reporting standards, enabling organizations to report publicly on their impact outward on the economy, environment and society.

The standards in the **300 series** request information about an organization's impacts on living and non-living natural systems, including land, air, water and ecosystems.



- GRI 301: Materials
- GRI 302: Energy
- GRI 303: Water and Effluents
- GRI 304: Biodiversity
- GRI 305: Emissions
- GRI 306: Waste (*under review*)
- GRI 307: Environmental Compliance
- GRI 308: Supplier Environmental Assessment



GRI 304: Biodiversity Standard

Disclosures	Indicators		
Operational activities that may have an impact on biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protected areas, areas of high biodiversity value outside protected areas affected IUCN Red List species and national conservation list species affected by level of risk 		
The nature of impact of activities, products and services, and the significance of impact	<table border="0"> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> <i>Nature of impact:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pollution Introduction of invasive species, pests and pathogens Reduction of species Habitat conversion Changes in ecological processes outside the natural range of variation </td> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> <i>Significance of impact:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extent of areas impacted Duration of impact Reversibility or irreversibility of impact </td> </tr> </table>	<i>Nature of impact:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pollution Introduction of invasive species, pests and pathogens Reduction of species Habitat conversion Changes in ecological processes outside the natural range of variation 	<i>Significance of impact:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extent of areas impacted Duration of impact Reversibility or irreversibility of impact
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The extent of an organization's prevention and remediation activities with respect to the impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Habitat areas protected and restored (size, location, condition at the end of the close of the reporting period) 		

- The GRI 304 Biodiversity Standard (GRI 304) is a topic-specific standard included in the 'Environmental' series of the GRI Standards. At least 2,000 companies and organizations from 91 countries in 6 regions use the GRI 304 Standard annually to report quantitative and qualitative information about their impacts on biodiversity. This information can be used internally and externally to inform debate and action on how to address biodiversity impacts.
- Specifically, robust disclosure on the biodiversity impacts and the organization's relationship to those impacts provides the basis to make managerial and operational choices that should, subsequently, result in changes and reduction of impact. The companies in question then can put the necessary safeguards in place to protect biodiversity at local, regional, and global scale.
- You can download the GRI 304: Standard here - <https://www.globalreporting.org/standards/gri-standards-download-center/gri-304-biodiversity-2016/>



Expected Standard review timeline

- 1 **Q2 2020:** GSSB forms the project working group (PWG) of experts
- 2 **April – September:** PWG develops draft Standard
→ June, first peer consultation at the IUCN World Conservation Congress, Marseille
→ June, second peer consultation at the GRI's Reporters Summit, Washington DC
- 3 **September – November:** public consultation
→ September, UNGA Biodiversity Forum, New York
→ October, COP-15, Kunming
→ November, COP-26, Glasgow
- 4 **December – May 2021:** finalization of the draft Standard by the PWG
- 5 **June 2021:** Standard release

- The GSSB will update the standard in 2020. It aims to form the project working group of experts by Q2 2020, start the draft Standard content development in May 2020, and open the public consultation on the exposure draft at COP15 in October 2020 (Kunming, China). Based on the extent of feedback received during the public consultation, the project would conclude in Q3 2021, ahead of the start of the 2022 reporting cycle.
- This update would also directly contribute to the GRI Sector Program, which will develop standards for 40 sectors, including forestry, agriculture, and the oil, gas and coal, sectors. These standards will organizations in identifying issues that constitute their sector's most significant impacts, ensuring and increasing robust reporting on biodiversity for high-impact sectors. Find out more: <https://www.globalreporting.org/standards/work-program-and-standards-review/gri-sector-program>.
- Ultimately, an up-to-date Standard responds to the call for global transparency – which is central to informing a global dialogue to find and implement workable solutions to the biodiversity crisis. As the pressure from investors and governments to disclose non-financial information increases and the biodiversity crisis worsen, the GRI 304 Biodiversity Standard would constitute a ready-to-use tool translating global best practice and multi-stakeholder consensus into actionable indicators for all to apply.
- For any information about the project, please reach out to Anna Krotova at krotova@globalreporting.org



Thank you for your kind attention.

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