

Annual Report

2025



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Global Infrastructure Basel Foundation (GIB) is a Swiss non-profit foundation working to promote sustainable and resilient infrastructure globally.

GIB engages with a wide range of stakeholders to build links between infrastructure projects and sources of finance.

The complete audited annual financial statements have been published on the Foundation's website and are available for reference at this link <https://www.gib-foundation.org/about-us>.

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This publication can be downloaded as a PDF at: <https://www.gib-foundation.org/about-us>.

ANNUAL REPORT

2025



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MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO



In 2025, the global context for sustainable infrastructure has become more complex - and more urgent. Slowing economic growth, rising debt burdens, and increasing geopolitical fragmentation are constraining progress at precisely the moment it is most needed. At the same time, development gains are under pressure from a profound shift in global cooperation and financing.

One of the most concerning trends is the sharp contraction in Official Development Assistance (ODA), which fell by over 20% in 2025 - the largest decline on record. For many of the world's most vulnerable communities, this is already translating into reduced access to essential services, weakened climate resilience, and slower progress on poverty reduction. In some contexts, hard-won development gains risk being reversed.

At the same time, high debt levels continue to limit fiscal space, forcing governments to prioritise short-term stability over long-term investments in infrastructure and human development.

This widening gap between ambition and delivery is one of the defining challenges of our time. Overlaying these trends is a rapid technological transformation. Advances in artificial intelligence and automation are reshaping economies, labour markets, and the distribution of opportunity. At the same time, the expansion of data centres and digital infrastructure is driving new forms of investment and energy demand. These shifts bring enormous potential - but also raise critical questions about equity, access, and inclusion in a rapidly changing world.

In this context, infrastructure is more than a technical or economic concern. It is a foundation for equitable development. High-quality, sustainable infrastructure enables access to services, supports livelihoods, and strengthens resilience to shocks - particularly for the most vulnerable. Without it, progress on poverty reduction, health, and social cohesion becomes increasingly fragile.

This is where GIB continues to focus its efforts. In 2025, we strengthened our work across all three strategic pillars - supporting the development of sustainable infrastructure standards, empowering the next generation to shape inclusive cities, and advancing Nature-based Solutions to build resilience.

As global systems evolve and traditional models of development come under strain, one message is clear: achieving a more equitable future will depend on how we design, deliver, and invest in infrastructure. The task ahead is not only to close gaps, but to reshape systems - so that they work for people, communities, and ecosystems alike.



Sincerely,
Louis Downing, CEO
Global Infrastructure Basel Foundation



ABOUT GIB FOUNDATION

The GIB mission is to accelerate a mainstream transition to sustainable, resilient and regenerative infrastructure.

1.1

Values, Vision and Mission



Values

We deeply value integrity, independence, innovation and adaptability in all our work, and we are committed to bridging the local and global in an inclusive and collaborative way with our partners.



Vision

A world in which investments in social, economic, and physical infrastructure lead to inclusive, sustainable, and resilient communities and ecosystems.



Mission

To accelerate a mainstream transition to sustainable, resilient, and regenerative infrastructure.

Further elaboration on our values

1.1.1. Innovation

GIB is driven by a vision shared by our founders, our Board, and our team: a world in which investments in social, economic, and physical infrastructure lead to inclusive, sustainable, and resilient communities and ecosystems. This guides and informs all aspects of our work.

Our aim is to stay focused on our vision and, when necessary, update and adapt by adopting a forward-looking, innovative, and visionary approach in our mission to inspire and accelerate a mainstream transition to sustainable, resilient, and regenerative infrastructure.

1.1.2. Excellence

The GIB team, and GIB as a foundation, strive for excellence, both in the way that we carry out our work and in the way that we conduct ourselves and treat each other and our partners.

We aim to produce work and provide services of the highest standard, remain consistent with our values, and lead by example.

1.1.3. Integrity

GIB values transparency, integrity, openness, and honesty. We are honest and open about our business and management practices (unless we are bound by confidentiality or handling sensitive information). In everything we do, we strive to foster a culture of open dialogue, both internally and with our partners and wider community.

We promote visibility and transparency in our processes, and encourage information flow, dialogue, and exchange among employees, management, our governing bodies, and our partners and associates.

We believe in taking responsibility and in measuring ourselves against the highest standards of integrity and responsibility. We honour our commitments to our partners and clients as well as to each other. We acknowledge our mistakes and are committed to correcting them promptly and effectively, while implementing safeguards to prevent their recurrence. We take allegations of misconduct seriously and deal with them in an open and transparent way.

We treat each other and our partners with kindness and respect, support one another, and encourage each team member's growth and development.

1.2

Our Approach and Theory of Change



GIB is a catalyst for evolution and change in the infrastructure sector. Our innovative approaches, together with our ability to convene the key actors in the sector, help us accelerate the mainstream transition to sustainable, resilient, and regenerative infrastructure. Our three-pillar strategy – Infrastructure & the Next Generation; Infrastructure & Nature; and Infrastructure Quality and Finance – creates a holistic pathway to achieve this vision.

We remain true to bridging the gap between on-the-ground infrastructure development and international discourse to shift the global agenda. We focus on implementing solutions that have long-term positive impacts and are developed through participatory approaches, enabling empowerment of future generations. Together with key stakeholders, we demonstrate how investing in sustainable and resilient infrastructure leads to more sustainable and safer cities and ecosystems, which in turn lead to improved quality of life, particularly for the most vulnerable.

GIB's Theory of Change is based on the logic and belief that:

IF

GIB demonstrates that tools such as the FAST-Label can lead to improved design, implementation, and financing of infrastructure projects and policies, resulting in outcomes that benefit people and ecosystems...

AND

we demonstrate the superior business case of sustainable infrastructure, including better risk-adjusted returns, improved revenue stability, and decreased insurance premiums...

THEN

we will shift the global and regional discourse on the actions, incentives, and policies that are needed to bring about sustainable, resilient, and regenerative infrastructure development...

SO

that decision makers and opinion leaders globally and regionally will accelerate the transition to resilient, sustainable infrastructure as the norm, rather than the exception.

*Ultimately leading to:
sustainable, resilient, and regenerative
societies and ecosystems.*

1.3

Our Team

GIB is proud of its diverse and talented team. Our highly skilled, passionate, and motivated people drive GIB's success, growth, and progress as they work closely together on our shared mission. In 2025, a total of 28 people were employed by GIB. The team's diversity remains a key asset to our mission and global reach: 19 nationalities bring countless perspectives to every aspect of our work. We are proud to reflect our ongoing commitment to creating a workplace where all individuals can thrive. We prioritise equity, flexibility, and supportive working conditions, enabling our staff to contribute meaningfully to our mission while balancing diverse responsibilities. As we continue to grow, we remain committed to respect, collaboration, and care. Our flexible and people-centred approach supports a healthy work-life balance and reinforces our commitment to being a family-friendly employer. We continue to cultivate a positive and empowering environment where every team member is encouraged to grow, contribute, and develop – both personally and professionally.

Talented | Passionate | Committed

28 People, 19 Nationalities



CORE TEAM



Louis Downing
CEO



Lorena Zemp
COO and Director of the Infrastructure
& the Next Generation pillar



Juraj Jurík
Director of the Infrastructure
& Nature pillar



Dr. Vicky Vouleli
General Counsel and
Head of HR



Nathalie Gaullier
Co-Director of the Infrastructure
Quality and Finance pillar



Roger Cruz
Co-Director of the Infrastructure
Quality and Finance pillar



Andrea Betancourt
Senior Programme Officer



Kelly Donovan
Global Programme Manager



Arshia Karki
Project Manager



Giulio Baroni
Communication Coordinator



Morgane Huchet
Project Manager



Amanda Radstake
Project Manager



Chengchen Qian
Project Manager



Hilda Liswani
Stakeholder and Event Manager



Christine Mertens
Project Manager



Emily Simpson
Junior Project Officer



Vivian He
Project Manager



Tabea Stöckel
Project Manager



Andréanne Lavoie
Senior Project Manager



Ania Porucznik
Project Manager



Jessica Brandenburg
Project Manager



Amber Lingg
Project Manager



Alice Grobler
Business Development
and Fundraising Lead



Donna Joggi
Office Manager



Benedikt Elmaleh
IT-Support Specialist

INTERNS



Federica Mastronicola
S²Cities Programme



Giorgia Seretti
FAST-Infra Label



Peter Dreher
Office Management Team.



ASSOCIATES



Pablo Nuñez
Specialist Associate:
Infrastructure and Finance



Beatrice Cassottana
Specialist Associate: Resilience



Holger Schmid
Specialist Associate: Sustainability



Roberta Pegorer
Specialist associate - Nature-based
Solutions for Coastal Protection



Victor Beumer
Specialist Associate: Environment



Evangelos Baltas
Specialist Associate: Hydrology



Juanita Olano Marin
Specialist Associate: Biodiversity



Mareike Duchatteau
Specialist associate: Communication

BOARD MEMBERS



Daniel Wiener
President of the Board



André Schneider
Vice-President of the Board



Alex Wong
Member of the Board*



Changhua Wu
Member of the Board

**Alex Wong stepped down from the GIB board in June 2025*





Paul Clements-Hunt
Member of the Board



Veronica Scotti
Member of the Board



Christian Déséglise
Member of the Board



Nancy MacPherson
Member of the Board



1.4

Our Work and SDGs

With the deadline for the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) fast approaching, global progress remains uneven. Only 17% of SDG targets are on track, which underscores the critical need for intensified climate action.

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



GIB's flagship programme Safe and Sound Cities (S²Cities) has engaged 10,000+ young people to lead causes and initiatives towards increased urban safety consciousness and education.



7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



With 660 million people projected to still lack electricity by 2030, GIB advances access to clean energy by certifying projects in renewable energy and promoting efficient resource use.

5 GENDER EQUALITY



GIB's S²Cities programme in Basel celebrates gender equality and inclusivity.

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



The Infrastructure & Nature pillar at GIB spans the impact of Nature-based Solutions (NbS), promoting the protection and restoration of water-related ecosystems, improving water quality and availability.

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



Through the FAST-Infra Label, GIB boosts standards and promotes transparency to unlock investments for innovative and resilient infrastructure. 200+ projects have been self-assessed through the FAST-Infra Label.

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



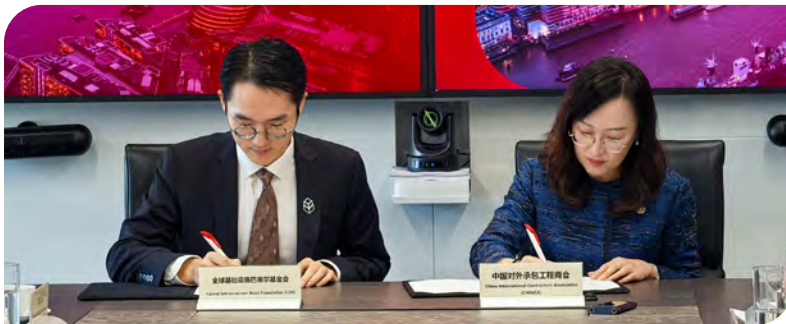
With the 2030 SDGs fast approaching, and only 17% of targets on track, GIB's mission to foster Sustainable Cities and Communities through its projects is more vital than ever.



13 CLIMATE ACTION



As the Secretariat of the FAST-Infra Label, GIB enhances climate resilience, with the increasing likelihood of surpassing critical temperature thresholds.



15 LIFE ON LAND



By setting a focus on the usage of Nature-based Solutions (NbS), GIB facilitates support for the protection, restoration, and sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems and biodiversity.

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



In the context of the rising need for intensified climate action, GIB's strategic pillars bring sectors, geographies, and people together through sustainable and resilient infrastructural practices.

1.5

Our Strategic Pillars



Infrastructure & Quality and Finance promotes investment in resilient, long-term infrastructure.



Infrastructure & the Next Generation empowers youth to shape inclusive, resilient urban futures.



Infrastructure & Nature supports Nature-based Solutions to boost climate resilience and biodiversity.

GIB's sustainable infrastructure approach is built on three pillars; together, these pillars drive GIB's commitment to sustainable, resilient and regenerative infrastructure for people and the planet.



2

**YEAR IN REVIEW
- 2025**

In 2025, GIB charted significant growth, achievement, and leadership while actively pursuing the implementation of sustainable, resilient, and regenerative infrastructure practices worldwide. This section of the annual report provides a comprehensive summary of the notable initiatives, projects, and impactful partnerships that characterised our efforts throughout the year.

2.1

Impact Highlights



GIB Photo Archive

全球基础设施巴塞尔基金会

中国对外承包工程商会

2.1.1 PROJECTS STATUS, 2025

The following table provides a snapshot of the main projects and programmes that GIB worked on in 2025.

Sr. No.	Projects	Main source of funding	Commenced in 2025	Completed in 2025	Ongoing beyond 2025
1	FAST-Infra Label Secretariat	Various			✓
2	FAST-Infra Access Programme	Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO)			✓
3	Due Diligence Multilevel Reporting	ISEAL Alliance	✓	✓	
4	Sponge City Development in the Mekong Delta	Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO)	✓		✓
5	Safe and Sound Cities Programme (S ² Cities)	Fondation Botnar			✓
6	S ² Cities for LGBTQIA+ Youth in Basel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LGTBI Youth Fund • Mercator Foundation 	✓		✓
7	Med-Iren	European Commission	✓		✓
8	Horizon Re-Value	European Commission			✓
9	Horizon P2R (Pathways to Resilience)	European Commission			✓
10	NATALIE	European Commission			✓
11	SOTERIA	European Commission			✓
12	Nature-based Solutions	Various			✓
13	ClimaGen	European Commission	✓		✓

INFRASTRUCTURE & QUALITY AND FINANCE

Infrastructure faces mounting challenges worldwide. Ageing systems and poorly planned developments leave communities vulnerable to economic, social, and environmental risks. Rapid urbanisation, environmental pressures, and climate disasters intensify these vulnerabilities, demanding resilient and sustainable solutions.

Despite the urgent need and because of geopolitical uncertainties, financial flows remain inadequate, fragmented, and misaligned when it comes to sustainable development goals. Mobilising private capital for sustainable infrastructure remains challenging due to high perceived risks, high upfront costs, and long payback periods, resulting in persistent financing gaps. Financiers struggle to identify high-quality, bankable projects that balance financial returns with positive impact, further stalling progress. Meanwhile, governments and developers frequently face hurdles in preparing projects and attracting capital due to limited technical capacity and poor creditworthiness, leading to weak project pipelines.

The absence of consistent frameworks to define and measure ‘quality infrastructure’ that balances sustainability, resilience, and social inclusivity further complicates matters. By offering tailored solutions that enable effective financing, establish quality benchmarks, and support innovative approaches to thrive, **GIB empowers financiers, infrastructure developers, and governments to create future-ready infrastructure that drives economic growth, promotes social equity, ensures environmental protection, and bridges gaps between infrastructure quality and access to finance.**

In 2025, the Infrastructure & Quality and Finance pillar focused on the uptake of the FAST-Infra Label. This was through the promotion of the label at events, particularly with the global event series ‘Infrastructure in a Changing World’. The label uptake ramped up with more than 250 projects registered and 58 self-assessed for a total of more than 24+ billion USD in CAPEX. These projects were distributed across 19 countries in Africa, Asia, Europe, North America, and South America, supporting infrastructure projects to meet best-in-class sustainability and resilience practices and gain access to finance.



We are very satisfied with the progress of the Label, the uptake exceeding expectations in 2025. We understand that the Label provided a real benefit to Multilateral Development Banks and Asset Managers that adopted it structurally.

Nathalie Gaullier
Co-Director of Infrastructure & Quality and Finance



PROJECT 1

FAST-INFRA LABEL

The FAST-Infra Label is designed as a universal label measuring sustainability and resilience for infrastructure projects. It enables developers and operators to demonstrate an infrastructure project's sustainability and resilience, and to attract investors seeking projects that contribute to sustainable outcomes. Conceived and developed by the Climate Policy Initiative, HSBC, Meridiam, Macquarie, the OECD, the IFC, and the World Bank's Global Infrastructure Facility under the auspices of the One Planet Summit in 2020, it includes an extensive list of practice-oriented indicators, organised into four dimensions and fourteen criteria.



GIB Photo Archive

Funded by

Various

Duration

November 2022 – December 2026

Budget

Not disclosed

Geographic Focus

Global

Key Global Partners

80+ institutions support the FAST-Infra Label governance, from financial institutions, project developers, and governments to civil society organisations, including HSBC, Macquarie, Meridiam, the Global Covenant of Mayors, FinDev Canada, Acciona, AECOM, the Global Infrastructure Facility, the International Finance Corporation, the World Economic Forum, WWF, and others.

GIB's Role

GIB is designated as the Secretariat of the label, responsible for developing the labelling scheme (framework, documentation, and verification system) and fostering the label's uptake (value proposition delivery and project acquisition).

Key Activities



Launched the first version of the FAST-Infra Label Application Portal, in partnership with Bloomberg L.P.



Expanded the adoption of the Label to 50+ projects, in 18 countries, totalling over 24 billion USD in CAPEX.



Enhanced the Label's governance bodies by adding 14 new members.



Participated in and organised more than 10 global events.



Communication series 'Voices of Impact' with up to 10 interviews with experts and governance body representatives.

Mission Alignment

The FAST-Infra Label advances GIB's mission by creating the market conditions necessary for scaling investment in sustainable and resilient infrastructure. By offering a transparent, standardised framework to assess and demonstrate a project's sustainability performance, the label gives investors the confidence to allocate capital towards assets that deliver long-term value and positive impact. This alignment of financial performance with environmental and social outcomes supports GIB's vision of infrastructure as a driver of inclusive growth and ecosystem resilience.

PROJECT 2

FAST-INFRA ACCESS PROGRAMME

Rooted in the belief that FAST-Infra Label Verified projects will meet investors' and lenders' sustainability requirements, thus facilitating access to debt and equity by highlighting project quality, the programme offers a repayable grant covering the costs of the FAST-Infra verification process. The grant will be repayable if and when the selected grantees reach financial close. In addition to covering the cost of verification, the programme incorporates a showcasing element to support participating projects in their fundraising activities. Additionally, the programme offers professional training in sustainable infrastructure across several countries to enhance knowledge on the subject and improve market readiness.

GIB's Role

GIB is leading and executing the programme's activities, including the call for applications, project selection, and support, showcasing successful applications to financiers, and organising the training sessions.

Funded by

Swiss State Secretariat for
Economic Affairs (SECO)

Duration

August 2024 – March 2027

Budget

400,000 CHF

Geographic Focus

Global



Key Activities



- Launch of the Access Programme.
- Selection and announcement of two accepted project candidates.
- Facilitation between projects and third-party verification.

Mission Alignment

This innovative grant programme supports GIB's mission by accelerating the readiness of bankable, sustainable infrastructure projects. The programme lowers barriers for developers and asset owners to signal project quality and align with investor sustainability requirements and enhances visibility among capital providers. The integrated training supports the market's capacity to develop sustainable projects. In doing so, the initiative strengthens investor confidence and advances GIB's vision by supporting the creation of a new generation of infrastructure as a catalyst for inclusive, resilient growth.



PROJECT 3

DUE DILIGENCE MULTILEVEL REPORTING

Emerging Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) reporting regulations in the financial sector may inadvertently create barriers to investment and reduce attractiveness of sustainable businesses, especially for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). These businesses often lack the capacity and resources to collect necessary data to meet the ESG due diligence requirements of financiers effectively. To alleviate these challenges, this project aims to develop a practical tool that facilitates the alignment of market-driven sustainable schemes with ESG disclosure regulations in the financial sector. With this, certified sustainable businesses can more easily comply with ESG due diligence requirements when seeking investments.



Andreas Gucklhorn on Unsplash

Funded by

ISEAL Innovations Fund,
supported by the Swiss State
Secretariat for Economic Affairs
(SECO)

Duration

January 2024 – December 2025

Budget

269,801 CHF

Geographic Focus

Global

Key Global Partners

Key partners include ISEAL community members (Assurance Services International, the Golf Environment Organisation Foundation, and the Global Sustainable Tourism Council) as well as selected financiers.

GIB's Role

GIB is leading the project from planning to implementation, including preliminary research on relevant regulations, conducting data mapping exercises, developing the tool, coordinating with project partners, engaging with stakeholders, and managing communication activities. In addition to this, GIB is currently exploring the AI integration in this project, envisioning the scaling up of the initiative to various stakeholders.

Key Activities



Assessed the alignment between the FAST-Infra Label, Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation (SFDR), EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR), Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD) and Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD).



Created the Sustainable Framework Benchmarking Tool powered by AI.
Ran the announcement and launch of the tool webinar.

Mission Alignment

This project advances GIB's mission by addressing a key market gap at the intersection of sustainability and financial regulation. By developing a practical tool that bridges ESG disclosure requirements with existing sustainable certification schemes, the initiative empowers SMEs to access capital more efficiently. The solution reduces compliance friction for both businesses and investors, unlocking new opportunities for sustainable enterprise growth. In doing so, the project supports GIB's vision of an inclusive and resilient economy – where technology-enabled alignment between regulatory frameworks and market practices accelerates the flow of finance towards impactful, future-ready businesses.

PROJECT 4

SPONGE CITY DEVELOPMENT IN THE MEKONG DELTA

The aim of the Mekong Delta Climate Resilience Programme (MCRP), jointly funded by Vietnam, Germany, and Switzerland, is to enhance the climate-resilient management of natural resources in the Mekong Delta's coastal region and to promote its sustainable development. The MCRP focuses on establishing regional coordination, improving investment planning, implementing innovative technologies to enhance climate resilience, and developing water-sensitive urban infrastructure, particularly in flood management. The MCRP collaborates with local authorities to develop sponge city concepts in three pilot cities, aiming to showcase Nature-based Solutions for sustainable urban development and flood management.



Michael Baccin on Unsplash

Funded by

Swiss State Secretariat for
Economic Affairs (SECO)

Duration

October 2023 – June 2026

Budget

93,000 CHF

Geographic Focus

Mekong Delta, Vietnam

Key Global Partners

GIZ – Deutsche Gesellschaft für
Internationale Zusammenarbeit,
ECOP SIS

GIB's Role

- Support the pre-feasibility studies and perform cost-benefit analyses for three Sponge City projects in selected pilot cities.
- Support the pilot projects' financial proposals by facilitating agreements with financial institutions.
- Train Vietnamese experts on the FAST-Infra Label and provide technical support to improve the pilot project's sustainability and resilience performance.

Key Activities



Provided technical support for the FAST-Infra Self-assessment of two Nature-based Solutions (NbS) projects in the Mekong Delta.



Supported the development of the project for a Phase Two.

Mission Alignment

The project exemplifies GIB's mission by supporting the transition towards resilient and regenerative infrastructure through integrated regional planning. By fostering cross-government coordination, enhancing investment planning, and piloting sponge city concepts, Sponge City addresses the complex challenges of urban flooding in a changing climate. Its focus on inclusive, water-sensitive urban development aligns with GIB's vision of quality infrastructure as a lever for sustainable ecosystems and community wellbeing. It demonstrates how policy innovation, international cooperation, and local implementation can converge to build long-term resilience at scale.

INFRASTRUCTURE & THE NEXT GENERATION

With 1.8 billion young people worldwide – 90% residing in the Global South – the pressures of rapid urbanisation, economic stresses, deep-rooted social inequities, and accelerating environmental degradation is disproportionately affecting youth. Poor urban planning, inadequate infrastructure, and resource depletion exacerbate these challenges, affecting their livelihoods and wellbeing. Despite their creativity and technological fluency, young people are often excluded from critical urban infrastructure decisions.

This exclusion reflects broader governance gaps where systemic barriers – lack of formal platforms and socio-economic constraints – limit youth engagement. Infrastructure policies frequently overlook the realities young people face, leading to systems that fail to support their evolving needs.

As global challenges such as climate change, urban migration, and technological disruption intensify, infrastructure must be sustainable and adaptable. Without meaningful youth inclusion, urban systems risk falling behind, perpetuating inequality and undermining resilience.

Next-generation infrastructure must be intelligent, efficient, and resilient, designed to address the needs and aspirations of future generations. Recognising these challenges, GIB is committed to ensuring that young people are central to shaping sustainable, resilient urban systems. By leveraging their insights and fostering innovation, GIB aims to empower future generations to lead the transition towards equitable and thriving cities.

The Infrastructure & the Next Generation Pillar is currently composed of one of GIB's largest programmes, the Safe and Sound Cities (S²Cities) programme, with plans to expand the pillar in the coming years.



The intersection of youth leadership and urban infrastructure is too often ignored. GIB drives change by equipping city officials, private sector partners, NGOs, and young people with the skills and momentum to collaborate and build safer, more inclusive cities. From climate-resilient initiatives across the Global South to advancing the rights of queer youth in the Global North, the Safe and Sound Cities Programme has become a catalyst for empowerment and meaningful participation. With more than 25 youth-led initiatives already implemented, it stands as a powerful model for intersectional, community-driven urban transformation.

Lorena Zemp
COO and Director of the Infrastructure & the Next Generation pillar



PROJECT 5

SAFE AND SOUND CITIES (S²CITIES)

Safe and Sound Cities (S²Cities) is a global programme with the objective of creating safer urban environments for young people aged 15 to 24 in intermediary cities globally. Young people in urban settings often lack access to safe spaces and opportunities to meaningfully contribute to urban decision making, as well as the necessary capacities and systems to fully exercise their right to safety and wellbeing.

From the onset of the programme in 2021, we have successfully cultivated a culture of informed decision making and active participation among young people across participating cities. S²Cities has created youth engagement opportunities for ideating and implementing safety solutions in cities, empowered young people through up-skilling activities and enhanced access to networks and resources, and engaged more than 620 young people in innovation and design-thinking activities, leading to the launch of 28 youth-led initiatives which have transformed young people's ideas into tangible project proposals. In total, more than 10,390 young people to date have participated in the programme in various capacities.



Funded by

Fondation Botnar

Duration

Phase I: 15 March 2021 – 31 December 2024

Phase II: 15 March 2024 – 14 March 2029

Budget

Phase I: 4,053,641 CHF

Phase II: 8,051,001 CHF

Geographic Focus

Phase I: Envigado, Colombia; Bandung, Indonesia; Cuenca and Ambato, Ecuador; Baguio and Naga, the Philippines.

Phase II: Phase I cities plus Cartagena, Colombia; Basel, Switzerland; and at least two more cities in the Global South (region and country to be determined). Potentially more cities and countries depending on co-funding.

Key Global Partners

Fondation Botnar; Swiss Philanthropy Foundation; Bureau of Urbanism (BUUR), Part of SWECO, Office for Sustainable Land & Urban Management (OSLUM); Relational Wellbeing Collaborative (RWC); ICLEI Regional Offices South America and Southeast Asia; University of EAFIT; City Collab; Research consortium (University of Azuay, City Scope Architecture, and PlacemakingX).



GIB Photo Archive

GIB's Role

Intermediary partner, participatory grant maker, and global manager of the programme.

Key Activities



Implemented the programme in six secondary cities across four countries: Envigado, Colombia; Bandung, Indonesia; Baguio and Naga, the Philippines; and Ambato and Cuenca, Ecuador. Local implementation consisted of nine innovation rounds with young people, public sector and other urban stakeholders across the six implementing cities, generating 28 initiatives ideated by young people.



Trained 143 city government officials from 79 government agencies on the inclusion of young people in decision-making processes.



Engaged 141 private sector organisations, 187 non-profit organisations, and 124 schools/academic institutions to the programme by attending local capacity strengthening activities, mentoring youth innovators, and serving as a bridge between youth, private, and public sector urban stakeholders.



Attended the World Urban Forum (WUF) event in Cairo with a delegation of 40+ programme representatives, 14 of whom were young people, attracting 850+ attendees at six sessions designed to empower young people to showcase their innovative safety solutions and advocate for youth wellbeing.



Established seven Youth Innovation Hubs across programme cities, in collaboration with young people and city governments. These spaces, provided by local governments and rehabilitated with equipment and essential resources financed



by the programme, provide vital physical spaces for young individuals to gather, engage in activities, innovate, and collaborate.



Mobilised approximately 325,000 USD in public and private funds to support youth initiatives and Youth Innovation Hubs.



To date, 71.2%* of the young people involved in S²Cities programme have identified a marked improvement in their cities' security.



91.3% of young people identify as being empowered due to their participation in the programme, and 74%** of young people reported they enhanced their ability to advocate for attention and essential services from public sector officers to address their safety and wellbeing concerns.

Mission Alignment

S²Cities contributes to GIB's mission to inspire and accelerate global transitions towards sustainable and inclusive infrastructure which meets the needs and aspirations of future generations. Focused on empowering youth innovation and engagement in urban decision making, as well as strengthening local capacities to prioritise youth concerns in urban planning processes, the programme drives positive changes in policy, practice, resource flows, and other preconditions of systems change to increase attention for and investment in infrastructure that supports youth safety and wellbeing. The programme is furthermore implemented under GIB's leadership with a network of global and local partners, aligning with GIB's commitment to inclusive and collaborative partnership.

* Data mentioned in the S²Cities Impact Report for years 2021–2023.
**From S²Cities programme outcome survey (August 2023 – March 2024), with 296 young people who participated in implementation in Bandung, Envigado, Cuenca, Ambato, Baguio, and Naga.



GIB Photo Archive

PROJECT 6

S²CITIES FOR LGBTQIA+ YOUTH IN BASEL

By placing LGBTQIA+ youth at the centre of urban safety efforts, S²Cities is working to create dedicated, inclusive environments where queer and trans youth can truly thrive. This vision is grounded in inclusive outreach across local networks, universities, and youth associations. Young people involved with S²Cities will co-create and implement context-specific initiatives in partnership with city stakeholders, aiming to strengthen queer visibility, agency, and wellbeing. S²Cities aims to drive systemic change for LGBTQIA+ youth, starting this pilot in Basel which will offer an expanding and replicable model for advancing LGBTQIA+ rights and promoting urban equity in Switzerland and beyond.



Malcolm Brostrom on Unsplash (edited)

Funded by

LGBTI Youth Fund, Mercator Foundation, GIB through the Global S²Cities Programme

Duration

April 2025 to March 2027

Budget

602,122 CHF

Geographic Focus

City of Basel, Canton of Basel-Stadt, Switzerland

Key Partners

- Canton and City of Basel (Gender Equality Unit of the Presidential Department)
- Anyway Basel
- Milchjugend
- Universidad EAFIT
- City Collab

GIB's Role

- Lead implementing organisation for the Basel pilot
- Global programme manager of S²Cities
- Intermediary partner between young people, city authorities, civil society, and funders
- Participatory grant maker for youth-led initiatives
- Provider of methodology, MEL framework, safeguarding standards, and global learning network access

Key Activities



Launched the S²Cities Basel pilot in April 2025, marking the first implementation of the programme in Switzerland, with formal support from the City of Basel.



Conducted initial stakeholder scoping and baseline assessments to identify priority safety and wellbeing challenges for LGBTQIA+ youth in Basel.



Recruited and onboarded a first cohort of LGBTQIA+ young people, delivering initial capacity-building activities focused on participation, urban safety, and innovation. Established the foundations for a city-supported LGBTQIA+ Youth Hub and prepared the youth-led innovation process to be rolled out in subsequent phases.



Integrated Basel youth and stakeholders into the S²Cities Global Learning Network, enabling early international knowledge exchange and alignment with global programme standards.

Mission Alignment

The S²Cities Basel pilot directly contributes to GIB's mission to inspire and accelerate global transitions towards sustainable, resilient, and inclusive infrastructure that meets the needs of future generations.

By localising the S²Cities methodology for LGBTQIA+ young people in Basel, the programme strengthens inclusive urban governance, prioritises youth safety and wellbeing, and enables bottom-up innovation that informs policy, practice, and investment at city level. The pilot reinforces GIB's Infrastructure & the Next Generation strategic pillar by embedding youth participation, relational wellbeing, and systems thinking into urban development processes. The focus on LGBTQIA+ youth is important as this segment has been identified as being at particularly elevated risk.

Implemented through a collaborative partnership model, the programme also reflects GIB's commitment to inclusive, participatory, and cross-sectoral approaches that can be scaled and adapted globally.

INFRASTRUCTURE & NATURE

Infrastructure and natural ecosystems are deeply interconnected, yet this relationship is often overlooked in development planning. Poor conservation practices and unchecked infrastructure growth are degrading ecosystems, threatening the balance between human needs and environmental protection.

Rising temperatures, unpredictable weather patterns, and extreme events such as floods and droughts further exacerbate these challenges, posing significant risks to ecosystems, communities, and economies globally.

Recognising the value of natural ecosystems and integrating Nature-based Solutions (NbS) into infrastructure planning and design can create a balance between human needs and environmental protection, contributing to both climate mitigation and adaptation. However, two critical challenges remain for its widespread adoption: first, the public sector often lacks the resources and expertise to effectively incorporate NbS and address climate change impacts; second, financial investments in NbS are insufficient to meet international climate targets. To tackle these urgent issues, GIB provides tailored technical assistance to support cities' and regions' strategic planning and processes, enabling them to effectively integrate NbS and advance sustainable development.

In 2025, GIB strengthened its role as a leader in Nature-based Solutions (NbS) by supporting initiatives focused on climate and nature risk mitigation. Highlights include its work with the European Investment Bank (EIB) to identify investment opportunities in nature-positive coastal protection and participation in Horizon Europe projects that promote NbS to enhance climate resilience across EU regions. These efforts will continue into 2026, advancing sustainable, nature-positive development.



As we continue to face global challenges like climate change and biodiversity loss, Nature-based Solutions (NbS) stand as a powerful tool for creating sustainable infrastructure. By integrating NbS into our design and development processes, we not only enhance the resilience of our communities but also ensure the protection and restoration of our ecosystems. Our goal is to close the financing gaps, build strong partnerships, and catalyse a widespread adoption of NbS, unlocking their full potential for climate mitigation, adaptation, and long-term sustainability.

Juraj Jurik
Director of Infrastructure & Nature



PROJECT 7

MED-IREN

Med-IREN aims to climate-proof critical infrastructure in Mediterranean regions against escalating climate risks, including heatwaves, droughts, extreme rainfall, flooding, coastal erosion, and wildfires. The project aims to demonstrate and replicate innovative, systemic approaches for adapting critical infrastructure to climate challenges, with a strong focus on implementing Nature-based Solutions. In addition, a digital twin will be developed and prototyped to support the co-creation, assessment, and planning of these solutions, enabling more effective adaptation strategies. Med-IREN focuses on five Mediterranean regions spanning Spain, France, Italy, and Greece.



Funded by

The Swiss Confederation (part of the Horizon Europe programme)

Duration

October 2024 – September 2028

Budget

620,000 CHF

Geographic Focus

Europe, focus on the Mediterranean region with replicating regions in the Nordics and Black Sea

Key Global Partners

National Centre for Scientific Research Demokritos, ICLEI, and 29 other partners.

GIB's Role

- Focused on the development of tools for financial assessments that evaluate how Nature-based Solutions (NbS) can be integrated into critical infrastructure projects.
- Supported regions in crafting individual regional implementation pathways that will guide the adoption and scaling of NbS.

Key Activities



Participated in the project kick-off in Athens.



Started working on Work Package 1, which sets out the preparatory work for the whole project and prepares both technical partners and regions to be able to start work on implementing NbS.

Mission Alignment

For Med-IREN, GIB leverages its experience in both infrastructure and nature as this project focuses on future-proofing critical infrastructure with NbS. GIB's contribution focuses on the pre-feasibility process and providing regions with financing tools, directly helping them to identify and finance resilient adaptation solutions for their communities. In total, at the end of the project nine European communities will have future-proofed their communities against a specific climate change risk.

PROJECT 8

RE-VALUE

The Re-Value partnership is dedicated to helping nine waterfront cities across Europe to achieve climate neutrality while enhancing urban quality and resilience. Re-Value integrates social, economic, and environmental considerations into urban planning by promoting transparent, participatory decision making, utilising technology and data, empowering communities, and focusing on sustainability. These cities are actively developing plans and concrete actions, facilitated by collaborative efforts and knowledge exchange with Re-Value partners. Over the course of the programme, GIB assists these cities in building partnerships, strengthening financial capacities, and identifying viable business cases for their projects.

For more information about the project see: <https://re-value-cities.eu/>.

The logo for the Re-Value project, featuring the word "RE-VALUE" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font with a light blue underline.

Soroush H Zargarbashi on Unsplash

Funded by

The Swiss Confederation (part of the Horizon Europe programme)

Duration

1 January 2023 –
31 December 2026

Budget

742,000 CHF

Geographic Focus

Nine cities across Europe

Key Global Partners

Norwegian University of Science and Technology and 24 other partners, including the nine beneficiary cities.

GIB's Role

GIB leads the project's 'Partnership and Financing' activities, which support participating cities in the development of partnerships that can build capacities, capture and increase different values and co-benefits, and help finance their projects. To achieve this, GIB supports the cities by delivering workshops and building dialogues, engaging stakeholders and potential partners, and exploring and leveraging traditional and innovative financing mechanisms.

Key Activities



GIB focused on strengthening collaboration with participating cities, supporting the development of financing and partnership approaches for waterfront transformation projects, and facilitating peer learning across the consortium. Through a series of consortium meetings, study visits, targeted city dialogues, and the introduction of the Sister Space format, GIB engaged closely with city representatives to advance project prioritisation, explore financing opportunities, and foster knowledge exchange between cities facing similar challenges.



GIB led four two-hour Sister Space workshops. Sister Spaces allowed for in-depth discussions between the sister cities on their chosen interventions and regarding the financing and partnerships models.



GIB began work on 'City Canvases', which consist of: a summary of the discussion with the cities during the Sister Spaces and a snapshot of projects; and a guidance note provided by GIB (IC3), including the 18 financing and partnership models.

Mission Alignment

The Re-Value project directly supports GIB's mission to accelerate the transition to sustainable, resilient, and regenerative infrastructure by helping nine European waterfront cities progress towards climate neutrality. Aligned with GIB's vision, the Re-Value consortium embraces regenerative principles by integrating environmental, economic, and social values into urban planning and development. The project is grounded in co-creation, multidisciplinary collaboration, and participatory decision making.

PROJECT 9

PATHWAYS2RESILIENCE (P2R)

P2R aims to enable at least 100 regions and communities in the EU to co-design visions of a climate-resilient future and corresponding transformative, locally led pathways and innovation agendas. P2R takes an innovative systemic approach to regional climate resilience, which is inseparable from Europe's future economic and social development.

For more information about the project see: <https://www.pathways2resilience.eu>.



Funded by

The State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (part of the Horizon Europe programme)

Duration

1 January 2023 –
31 December 2027

Budget

497,759 CHF

Geographic Focus

100 regions in Europe

Key Global Partners

European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) Climate-KIC and 12 other partners from a total of ten countries.

GIB's Role

GIB brings in state-of-the-art expertise in the Mission's Key Community Systems (KCSs), in particular NbS and Critical Infrastructure, as well as corresponding Key Enabling Conditions (KECs), such as mobilisation of sustainable finance, needed tools, and regional networks.

Key Activities



Opened the second call for the Pathways2Resilience programme to bring in an additional 60 regions as the second cohort.



Convened participating regions and partners in Malaga to take stock of progress on resilience planning and implementation.



Delivered a series of Innovation Practice Groups across 10 thematic areas, bringing together regional experts, practitioners, and citizen groups; GIB led the Critical Infrastructure group on resilience and adaptation and contributed to Nature-based Solutions (NbS).



Contributed to the Deep Dives series – expert communities spanning science, policy, engagement, and practice – through targeted inputs on financing and resources for climate resilience.

Mission Alignment

The P2R project directly advances GIB's mission by supporting a mainstream transition towards climate-resilient infrastructure across Europe. By empowering regions to co-develop transformative adaptation strategies and investment plans, P2R fosters inclusive, sustainable, and regenerative approaches central to GIB's vision. The project strengthens local capacities while aligning with broader global resilience goals – demonstrating how place-based action can drive systemic impact.

PROJECT 10

NATALIE

NATALIE tackles the challenges and effects of climate change by promoting and accelerating the integration of Nature-based Solutions (NbS) using ecosystem-based adaptation to enhance regional resilience. To meet its objectives, NATALIE is developing an innovative NbS booster pack that includes solutions aimed at pivotal areas for transformational change. Launched in September 2023, the NATALIE project supports eight case studies in Europe, implementing 18 NbS measures for climate resilience. GIB supports this project by applying the Nature for Investment Launchramp methodology to increase the viability of NbS interventions and facilitate investment in nature.

For more information about the project, see: <https://www.natalieproject.eu>.



Funded by

The Swiss Confederation (part of the Horizon Europe programme)

Duration

September 2023 – August 2028

Budget

803,420 CHF

Geographic Focus

12 sites in five different bio-geographical regions of Europe

Key Global Partners

Project coordinator – International Office for Water and 42 other partners from 13 countries.

GIB's Role

Co-leading the work package on investing in ecosystem-based adaptation for climate resilience development. In this capacity, GIB supports the identification of funding and financing streams to help leverage resources for accelerating and scaling up adaptation. In addition, GIB will apply the Nature for Catchment Launchramp methodology to four case studies, to catalyse and assess the viability of NbS projects.

Key Activities



Organised multiple workshops with local stakeholders in Iceland alongside IISD, the University of Exeter, to engage financial actors and build capacity around NbS, in particular IMTA.



Developed the NATALIE Investment Bundle Toolkit and Life-cycle approach bringing together three methodologies supporting public-sector stakeholders and project teams in advancing NbS initiatives from early-stage concepts towards viable projects, that cover the assessment of the NbS business, the monetisation of co-benefits, and the identification of funding and financing options.

Mission Alignment

The NATALIE project aims to promote the implementation and uptake of Nature-based Solutions (NbS) as a form of sustainable and resilient infrastructure. Through GIB's Nature for Investment Launchramp methodology, the project helps mainstream NbS approaches that are socially inclusive, environmentally supportive, and financially viable to accelerate a transition to sustainable infrastructure.

PROJECT 11

SOTERIA

SOTERIA stands for Solutions and Technologies for Regions through Insurance for climate Adaptation. The project focuses on advancing insurance solutions that mitigate the effects of climate change and safeguard organisations and businesses across Europe. To this end, eight European cities, each facing unique challenges and risks, have been chosen. In these locations, different iterations of an insurance product will undergo testing at various stages of development, providing critical insights to shape the product's evolution. Since September 2023, GIB has been involved in the SOTERIA project, facilitating Climate Resilience Dialogues in various regions to enhance understanding and communication among stakeholders, including insurance firms, local authorities, and businesses.

For more information about the project see: <https://soteriacclimate.eu>.



Manuel Pérez García and Estefanía Monerri Minguéz on Wikimedia

Funded by

The Swiss Confederation (part of the Horizon Europe programme)

Duration

September 2023 – March 2026

Budget

177,172 CHF

Geographic Focus

Eight cities in six European countries

Key Global Partners

16 beneficiaries and 15 associated partners, coordinated by Basque Centre for Climate Change (BC3).

GIB's Role

GIB brings expertise in sustainable and resilient infrastructure, standardisation, Nature-based Solutions, and collaboration with the insurance sector. GIB supports SOTERIA by hosting Climate Resilience Dialogues to raise awareness and foster dialogues between relevant stakeholders, e.g., insurance companies, municipalities, and local communities.

Key Activities



Launched the SOTERIA Climate Resilience Dialogues (CRD) series on Insurance. More information can be found here: <https://www.soteriacclimate.eu/climate-resilience-dialogues/>.



Organised three expert-led webinars exploring key topics in insurance, including the Climate Protection Gap, Risk Assessments, and Public-Private Collaboration within insurance systems.



Conducted all in-person and online CRD in SOTERIA's case studies bringing together municipalities, local insurers, businesses, and other stakeholders to discuss challenges and opportunities in the local risk assessment and insurance landscape.

Mission Alignment

Through the SOTERIA project, GIB is supporting the development of insurance solutions that help businesses and organisations mitigate the financial risks and help safeguard communities and businesses from the impacts of climate change. The refinement of insurance products in diverse cities ensures they are adaptable and effective in real-world scenarios and is contributing to the mission of creating sustainable, resilient systems, including infrastructure. By facilitating the Climate Resilience Dialogues and engaging with key stakeholders, including the engagement of insurance companies, local authorities, and businesses, GIB is creating an ecosystem of collaboration that strengthens community resilience to climate change.

PROJECT 12

NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

European Investment Bank and various other organisations supporting GIB to develop its work in the space of NbS and Water, with a focus on mitigation of river flooding and resilient coastal protection through the use of NbS. EIB provides GIB with annual grants to conduct studies on NbS, often in the context of river and coastal flood management and biodiversity enhancement.

GIB's Role

Core funding to develop NbS and water work.



Key Activities



Produced a report entitled ‘Nature-based Solutions for Coastal Protection in Europe and beyond: Lessons from case studies’.



Worked closely with public banks and private investors to finance NbS.



Collaborated with public investors to originate NbS projects e.g., through technical assistance and capacity building such as the Opportunity Scan.

Mission Alignment

NbS directly contribute to GIB’s Mission by advancing the development and financing of sustainable, resilient, and regenerative infrastructure. By focusing on river flood mitigation, water management, and biodiversity enhancement, the project supports the mainstream transition to infrastructure systems that work with nature rather than against it. It also aligns with GIB’s vision of building inclusive, sustainable, and resilient communities and ecosystems by strengthening the knowledge base, engaging key public and private stakeholders, and creating pathways to scale up NbS investment across Europe, with a special focus on the Mediterranean region.



Funded by
European Investment Bank
and various

Duration
2022 – 2026

Budget
Not disclosed

Geographic Focus
Europe with a special focus
on the Mediterranean region

Key Global Partners
GIB

PROJECT 13

CLIMAGEN

ClimaGen is a 48-month Horizon Europe project focused on urban regeneration, renaturing, and climate resilience in vulnerable neighbourhoods. Five Demonstration Cities (Belgrade, Gdańsk, Tartu, Torino, Trondheim) will implement at least 25% more newly created and/or restored public green spaces, while four Replication Cities (Cluj-Napoca, Eindhoven, Gernika, Thessaloniki) test co-creative solutions and prepare for future implementation of the measures. The project's objectives focus on strengthening local capacities, delivering measurable environmental and social impacts, and generating transferable knowledge to support cities across Europe.

For more information about the project see: <https://www.climagen.eu/>



CLIMAGEN

Funded by

The Swiss Confederation (part of the Horizon Europe programme)

Duration

January 2025 – December 2028

Budget

627,579 CHF

Geographic Focus

Nine cities in nine European countries

Key Global Partners

Norwegian University of Science and Technology and 30 other partners including municipalities, universities, research institutes, cultural organisations, youth organisations, living labs, policy experts, and NGOs across Europe.

GIB's Role

GIB supports the nine cities in navigating EU public investment facilities and accessing loans, grants and blended finance for urban NBS projects. We engage with the cities to increase the investment readiness of their NbS projects. We bring about investment and partnership models and develop financing concepts that optimise the value of proposed greening solutions.

Key Activities



Participated in the kick-off meeting and study visit in Trondheim.



Conducted an in-person workshop on key financing challenges.



Participated in a study visit in Gernika.



Participated in the set-up of the programme, alongside work package partners, contributing to first deliverables of the project.

Prepared a Project Maturity Level (PML) Assessment with all cities, to be launched in 2026, to gain clarity on:



- Project definition and scope
- Funding and financing considerations
- Potential business models and economic viability of pilot projects
- Key gaps and themes to address

Mission Alignment

Through the ClimaGen project, GIB builds on its financing expertise from ReValue to support the cities in navigating challenges related to financing of planning, implementation and maintenance of urban Nature-based Solutions. This directly supports the Nature pillar's mission to accelerate the use of NbS in infrastructure systems.

2.2

Outreach, Advocacy and Communication

To advance sustainable infrastructure, Global Infrastructure Basel Foundation (GIB) strategically employs a comprehensive outreach, advocacy, and communication approach. Our approach includes:

- Forging collaborative partnerships with global stakeholders.
- Actively participating in key international forums such as the Conference of the Parties (COP) and the World Economic Forum (WEF) to advocate for sustainable infrastructure solutions.
- Building stakeholder capacity through targeted workshops and training programmes (such as Climate Resilience Dialogues and FAST-Infra Training Programme for Professionals).
- Supporting research to inform effective policy and decision-making through leveraging diverse digital platforms to disseminate information, engage with a broad global audience, and mobilise support for our mission, ensuring our message of sustainability resonates effectively across sectors and regions.

Some key events that we were a part of in 2025 are described in the following pages.

Speakers

Moderator

Lauren Kiel

Global Head of Community Innovation
Bloomberg Media

Thierry Déau

Founder & CEO, Meridiam
Chairman, FAST-Infra Group

Veronica Scotti

Chairperson Public Sector Solutions,
Swiss Re

Board Member, Global Infrastructure
Basel Foundation

Bloomberg House
Davos

B



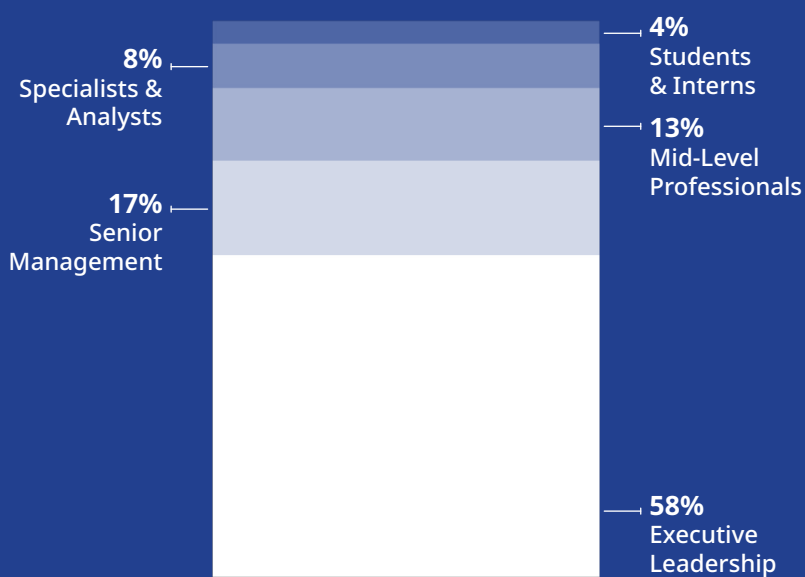
2.2.1 EVENTS AND ENGAGEMENT 2025

The *Infrastructure in a Changing World* global event series spearheaded by GIB, was a transformative platform to unlock opportunities in sustainable infrastructure development and drive systemic change in the global infrastructure ecosystem.

Anchored by GIB's leadership as the Secretariat for the FAST-Infra Label, and supported by global sustainability market leaders, regulators, and thought leaders, the 2025 event series aligned stakeholders, drive actionable outcomes, and strengthened the role of sustainable infrastructure in achieving global goals and mitigating climate risks. This global initiative uniquely positioned itself to tackle these barriers by convening decision-makers, investors, policymakers, and innovators across regions and sectors. Unlike one-off conferences, a multi-location, multi-format approach ensures that insights were not only generated but also adapted to diverse local realities, fostering cross-border collaboration, knowledge transfer, and scalable solutions. By creating a sustained dialogue over time, this series drove market alignment, policy harmonisation, and the mobilisation of capital—all critical levers in accelerating the transition to resilient, inclusive, and low-carbon infrastructure. This was not just an event series, but an action-oriented platform for reshaping global infrastructure at the pace and scale that today's challenges demand.



1300+ Registrations
from **70+ Countries**



Participation by Job Role

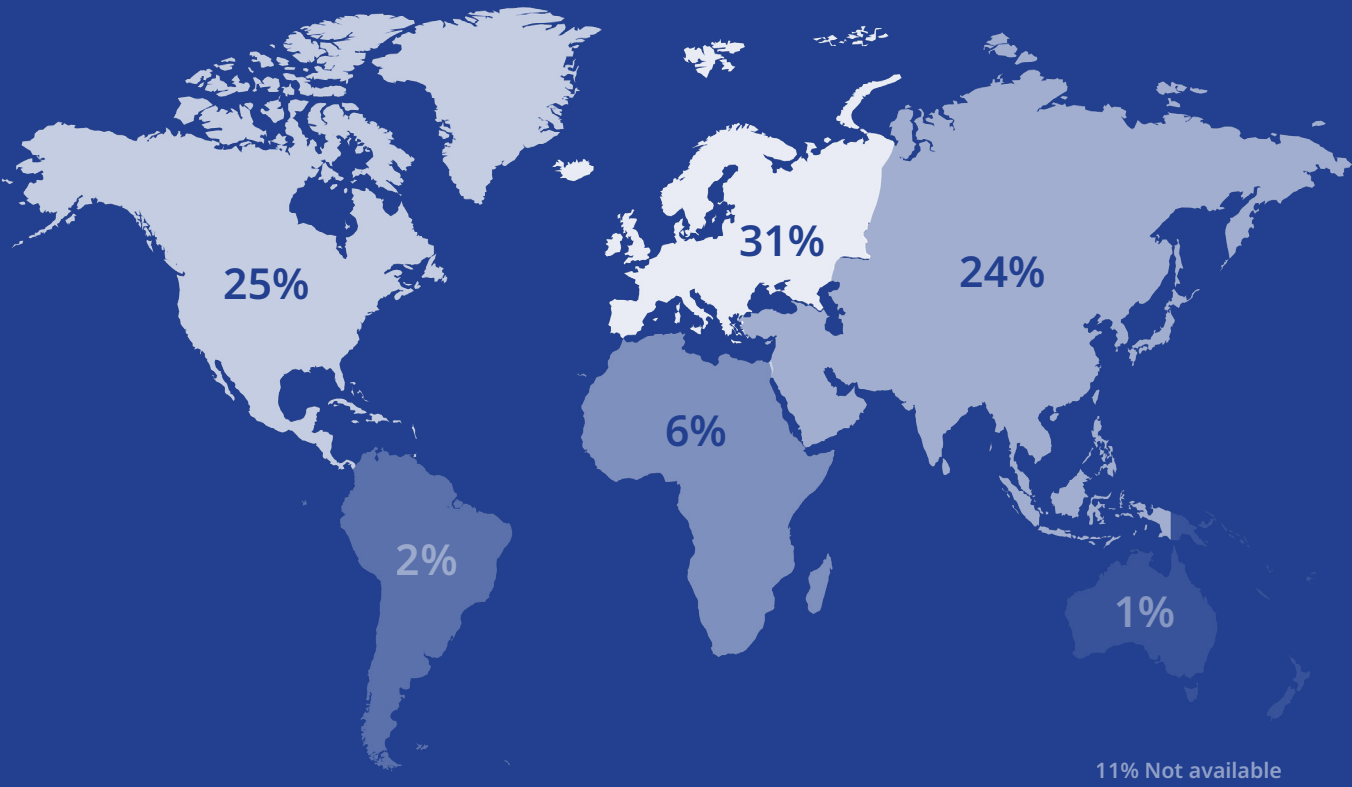


800+
Companies in
attendance

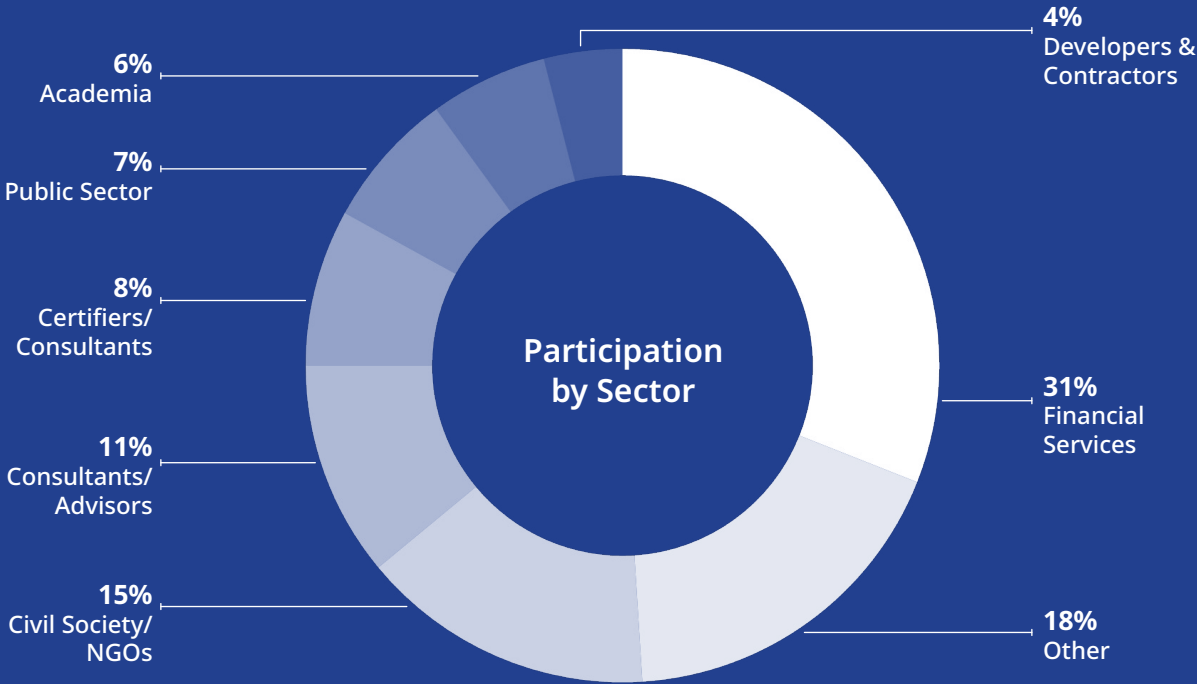
Participation from Key Global Organisations

- Climate Policy Initiative
- HSBC
- Bentley Systems
- Bloomberg L.P.
- EBRD
- World Bank
- AECOM
- Forvis Mazars
- AON
- The Nature Conservancy

Company Participation by Continent



11% Not available





GIB Photo Archive

January 2025

Basel Peace Forum
Basel, Switzerland

Learned about the social and economic downsides of the energy transition and met leaders in the social implications of the energy transition based in Basel.

January 2025

World Economic Forum
Davos, Switzerland

Official launch of the FAST-Infra Label at Bloomberg House.

January 2025

Baukultur Alliance Breakfast (Side event WEF Davos)
Davos, Switzerland

The event addressed topics such as circularity, climate adaptation, resilience, affordability, and placemaking, highlighting the value of high-quality Baukultur (building culture) in today's rapidly changing world.



**Davos
Baukultur
Alliance**



February 2025

Finance in Common Summit
Cape Town, South Africa

High-level gathering to convene key decision-makers across the infrastructure financing and development ecosystem.

March 2025

Berlin PEI Investor Infrastructure Summit
Berlin, Germany

Side event brought together leading investors, asset managers, and industry experts to discuss the role of high-quality data in achieving resilient and adaptive infrastructure investments.

April 2025

IDB PPP Americas
Lima, Peru

The panel explored how PPPs can drive innovative solutions that reduce environmental impact.





GIB Photo Archive

April 2025

Shanghai Climate Week
Shanghai, China

Conference event unlocking the capital required to finance sustainable infrastructure by mobilising both private and public resources.

April 2025

Nature Finance Forum
Paris, France

The forum brought together senior executives from a highly focused ecosystem, prioritising investors with defined nature allocations, seeking investor-ready projects. It showcased groundbreaking nature, biodiversity and carbon removals projects. GIB participated in multiple roundtables.

April 2025

DC Spring Meetings
Washington DC, USA

The event brought together industry leaders, policymakers, and investors to explore how policy, financial innovations, and data-driven insights can drive this transformation.



SPRING MEETINGS
2018 | WASHINGTON DC
INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND
WORLD BANK GROUP



April 2025

Sustainable Investment Forum
Paris, France

The forum was hosted in partnership with UNEP-FI, as a platform for sustainable finance leaders dedicated to advancing a net-zero, nature-positive, and equitable economy. Daniel Wiener participated as panel speaker.

April 2025

Bureau Veritas Forum Dubai 2025
Dubai, UAE

The panelists shared insightful strategies and innovative approaches to support the development of resilient assets, including new labelling systems and case studies. They also delved into turning climate risks into opportunities through leveraging insurance, embedding resilience in design, and exploring new business models.

May 2025

ADB Annual Meeting
Milan, Italy

Introduction of FAST-Infra Label as a practical tool to align infrastructure projects with robust environmental, social, governance, and resilience criteria.





FAST-Infra
SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE



GIB Photo Archive

June 2025

**ISEAL-IISD workshop:
Integrating VSS into
trade policy**
Geneva, Switzerland

Polymakers and standard setters called for stronger alignment between regulations and voluntary sustainability standards, highlighting credibility and regulatory-change challenges, the role of AI-enabled benchmarking and capacity building, rising geopolitical pressures, and the potential of locally partnered, bottom-up approaches in markets such as China.

June 2025

**EURESFO 2025 (Urban
Resilience Forum)**
Rotterdam, Netherlands

The event highlighted policy-market alignment on sustainable finance, the evolving role of standards and assurance, the use of data and AI, capacity-building needs, and the growing influence of geopolitical and regional dynamics on regulation and implementation.

June 2025

London Climate week
London, England

The event harnessed the power of cross-sector collaboration in accelerating sustainable infrastructure practices that drive long-term financial performance.





August 2025

Stockholm World Water Week
Stockholm, Sweden

Discussions highlighted persistent challenges in financing climate adaptation and nature-based water infrastructure, including weak revenue models, limited downstream financing and insurance coverage, and high transaction costs.

August 2025

Day of the Foundation in Basel
Basel, Switzerland

Participation in the event helped strengthen GIB's visibility and positioning, with a well-received project pitch leading to renewed interest from philanthropic and financial institutions.

September 2025

Network Nature Annual Event
Brussels, Belgium

As part of NATALIE, GIB attended the Network Nature Annual Event convening researchers, public sector representatives, private sector, and NbS practitioners.





GIB Photo Archive

September 2025

Business Opportunities Forum ADB
Manila, Philippines

Participation strengthened GIB's relationship with a major MDB (multilateral development bank), expanded networking across the Asia-Pacific region to support uptake of the FAST-Infra Label, and generated concrete follow-up opportunities around public-private partnerships, alignment with new environmental and social frameworks, and potential project pipelines in multiple countries.

September 2025

New York Climate Week
New York City, USA

Infrastructure & Quality and Finance
A high-level convening of insurers, reinsurers, financiers and infrastructure developers to co-develop solutions that address a critical bottleneck.

Infrastructure & Nature
Reef to reef documentary film screening.





September 2025

Placemaking Europe
Reggio Emilia, Italy

Participation helped extend the reach of the S²Cities programme into Global North contexts, showcase its Basel implementation, strengthen collaboration with city partners, and initiate contacts with potential research partners, while generating insights on youth inclusion in urban spaces and follow-up actions focused on consolidating ideas, best practices, and new relationships.

October 2025

Building Bridges
Geneva, Switzerland

The objective of the session was to take participants on a journey to explore what are the key components required to accelerate the uptake of NbS. Special attention was given to the importance of project pre-feasibility assessments for NbS (i.e. project origination) and innovative financing.



GIB Photo Archive

October 2025

Webinar FAST-Infra Online

This webinar focused on showcasing why standards such as the FAST-Infra Label can help build sustainable infrastructures at scale.

October 2025

ISEAL Members' Week Brussels, Belgium

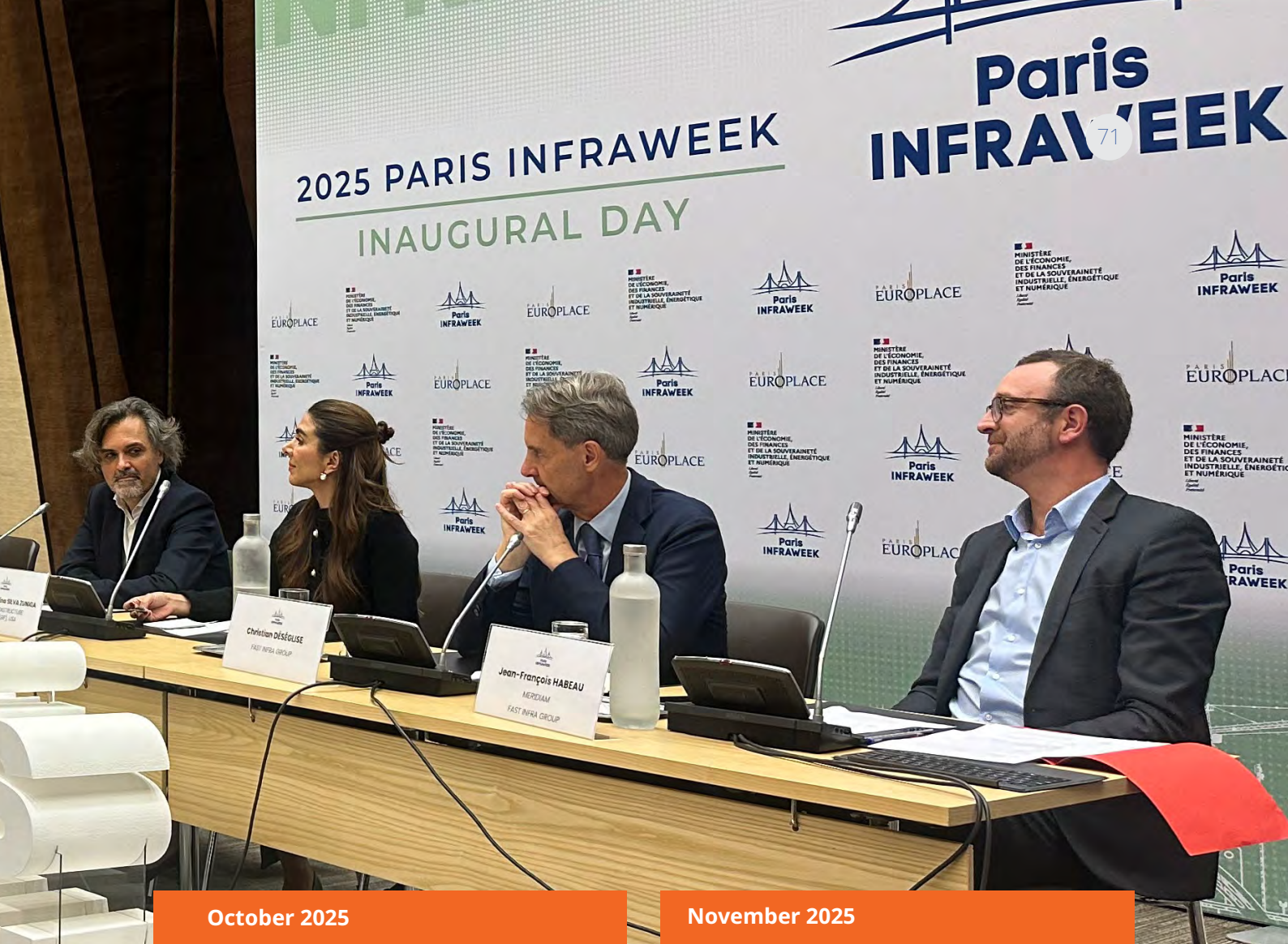
Participation in an international standards forum strengthened engagement within the voluntary sustainability standards community, generated valuable insights on regulatory alignment, impact measurement, for GIB and the FAST-Infra Label.

October 2025

BII event IMPACT London, England

Panel discussions highlighted a shared shift from aid-based models towards investment-driven growth in emerging markets, stressing the need for innovative risk-mitigation tools, blended-finance structures, and currency solutions.





October 2025

Runder Tisch LGBTIQ+ Kanton Basel-Stadt
 Basel, Switzerland

Participation in a local multi-stakeholder roundtable provided insight into public-sector approaches to inclusion and diversity, increased awareness of GIB and its programmes, and helped maintain visibility and relationships for potential future engagement as the dialogue continues on a regular basis.

November 2025

Paris Infraweek
 Paris, France

Engagement across panels and bilateral meetings advanced the visibility and positioning of the FAST-Infra Label, generated opportunities for project uptake, partnerships, advocacy and events with public and private stakeholders, and helped shape a coordinated strategy on resilience, verification, and multilateral engagement ahead of upcoming international milestones.





GIB Photo Archive



November 2025

Global Forum on Human Settlements Geneva, Switzerland

High-level discussions underscored the growing role of science, data, and emerging technologies in supporting risk-informed urban development, while highlighting persistent challenges in translating improved information into effective local action, financing resilience, and integrating climate services.

November 2025

Working Party on PPP, 9th session Geneva, Switzerland

Participation in an international policy forum highlighted the scale of the global infrastructure financing gap and reinforced the role of well-designed public-private partnerships, innovative and blended finance tools, and emerging technologies such as AI in improving project bankability, resilience, and alignment with sustainable development goals.



GLOBAL FORUM ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS





November 2025

Sustainable Finance Conference (PwC)
Zurich, Switzerland

GIB attendance at a thematic event on sustainability and nature enabled engagement with leading actors in the nature-finance ecosystem, provided insights into emerging approaches to nature-positive solutions, and opened initial discussions on potential research collaboration focused on developing bankable and investable markets for nature.

November 2025

COP30 Brazil
São Paulo and Belem, Brazil

Series of events between São Paulo and Belem on finance, standards, and sustainable infrastructure.



2.3

Publications

In 2025, GIB continued its commitment to fostering knowledge creation and advocacy, authoring an array of publications across its programmes. This section highlights some of the impactful endeavours undertaken by GIB and also features project publications by our programme partners.

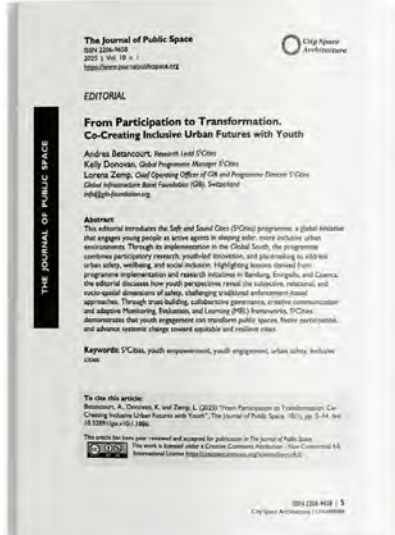
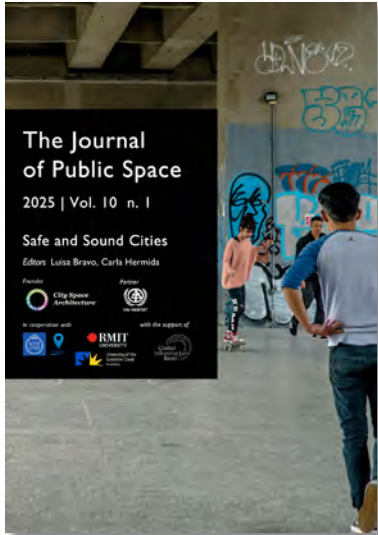
Reports

Dalmore Capital Responsible Investment Policy:

<https://www.dalmorecapital.com/policies-and-documents/>

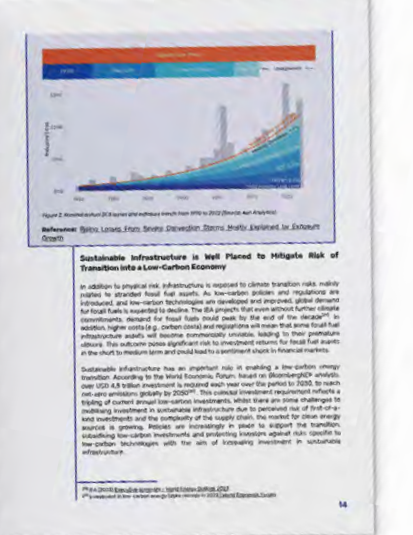
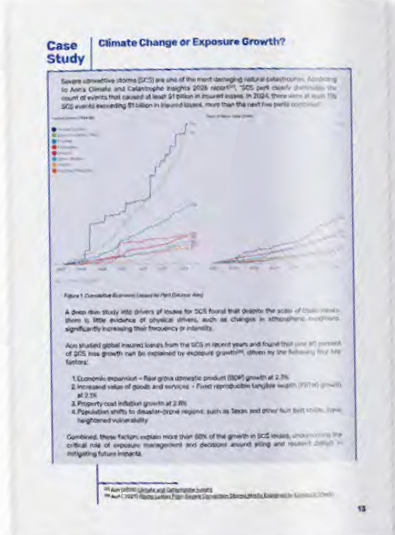


S²Cities Publication



The Journal of Public Space: Safe and Sound Cities programme
In collaboration with Global Infrastructure Basel Foundation

GIB Publication

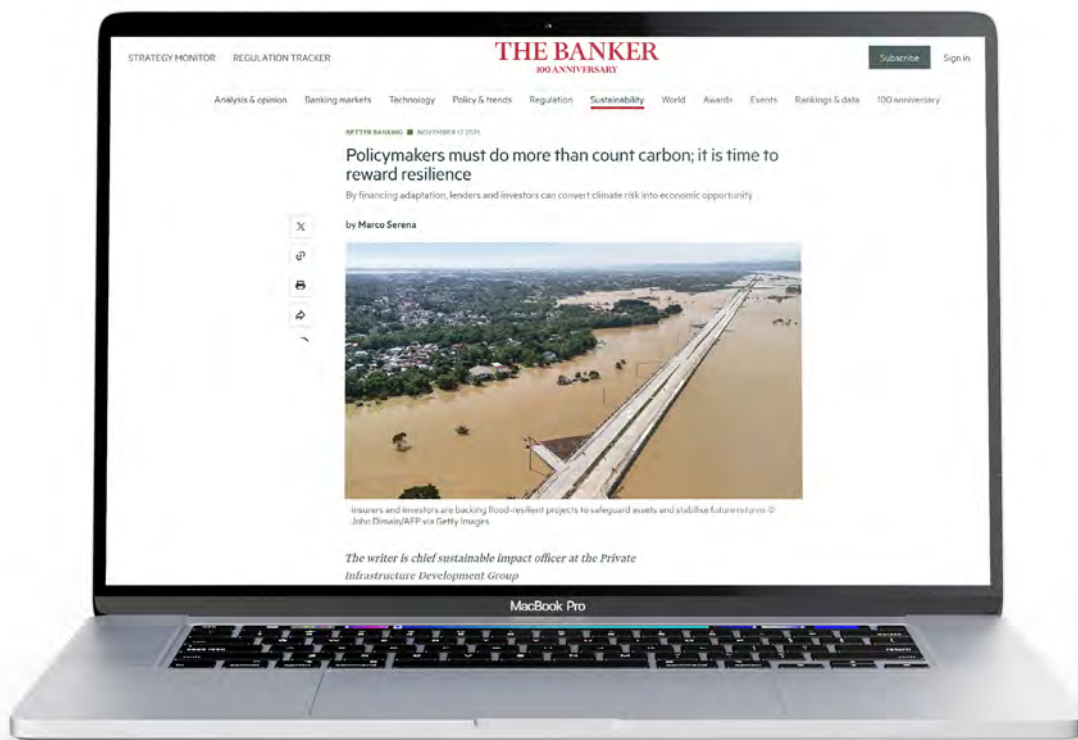


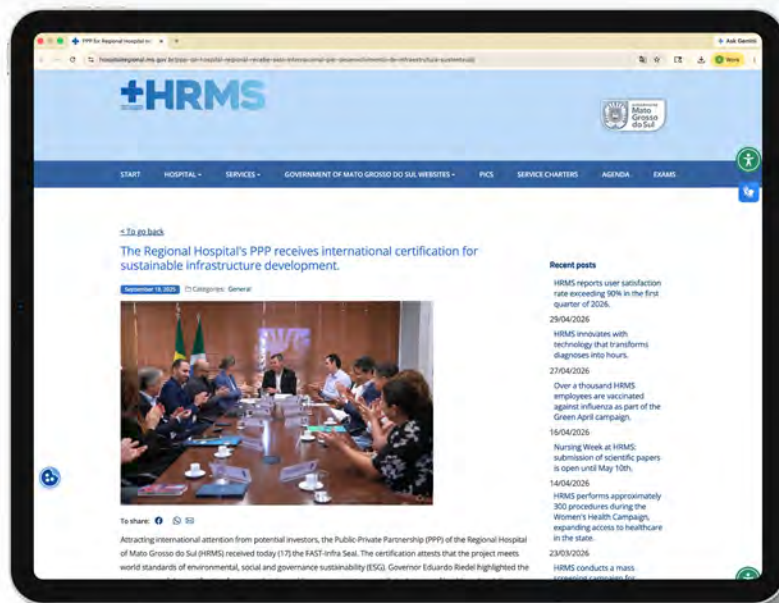
White Paper: Improved financial performance of sustainable infrastructure in the context of climate change
Authored by Porucznik, A., & Downing, L., Global Infrastructure Basel Foundation.

News Spotlight: FAST-Infra on the media

The FAST-Infra Label initiative was also featured or mentioned in several online publications and included in various reports as part of a curated overview of FAST-Infra Label press and media coverage, highlighting it as a one-stop solution for sustainable infrastructure:

- *AI Spurs Wave of Data Centre Growth in Africa.* (2025, September 25). Engineering News.
- Breda, L., & Gonzaga, A. (2025, September 18). *The Regional Hospital's PPP receives international certification for sustainable infrastructure development.* Hospital Regional.
- Eugênio, R. (2026, March 25). *PPP for the Regional Hospital places MS among the finalists for a national award.* A Crítica.
- *'First-of-its kind' sustainable infrastructure label launched.* (2025, January 23). Environmental Finance.
- Freitas, V. (2025, September 18). *International certification attests to the sustainability of the Regional Hospital of Mato Grosso do Sul.* Capital News.
- *From nature finance to industrial decarbonisation: 7 key sustainable business takeaways from Davos.* (2025, January 24). Edie.





- Gamarra, P.J. (2025, September 24). *The government presents the HR concession project to the Ministry of Planning.* Campo Grande News.
- *Global sustainable infra mark launched.* (2025, January 23). Partnerships Bulletin.
- Gustavo, L. (2025, September 15). *Regional Hospital of Mato Grosso do Sul receives international sustainability certification in PPP projects.* Jornal da Nova.
- *IDB Invest Funds San Cristóbal Campus to Empower Over 13,000 Guatemalan Youth Through Education and Sports.* (2025, June 11). IDB Invest.
- Petersen, A.S. (2025, January 7). *FAST-Infra hopes to be the holy grail of sustainability labels.* Infrastructure Investor.
- Ricardo, J. (2025, September 17). *The Regional Hospital's PPP receives international certification for sustainable infrastructure development.* MS Newspaper.
- Serena, Marco. (2025, November 17). *Policymakers must do more than count carbon; it is time to reward resilience.* The Banker.
- Yahn, N. (2025, September 24). *Innovative PPP project for the Regional Hospital is presented to the Ministry of Planning and Budget.* Agencia de Noticias MG.
- Yahn, N., & Breda, L. (2025, September 24). *Innovative PPP project for the Regional Hospital is presented to the Ministry of Planning and Budget.* EPE.

2.4

Our Network











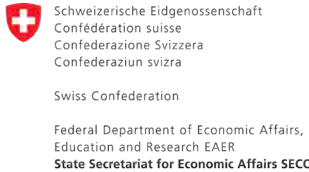
2.4.1 GIB'S MEMBERSHIP IN INITIATIVES

As of 2025, GIB was and continues to be part of the following initiatives:

- Sustainable Markets Initiative (SMI) – Task Force on Data Working Group
- Davos Baukultur Alliance
- Cities4Children Alliance
- Climate-KIC Drive Community Membership
- International Mass Awareness Programme (IMAP Trust) & Ascensive Eduskill Foundation
- Invest Europe
- Making Cities Resilient – UNDRR
- World Economic Forum – Global Futures Council
- EIT Climate-KIC
- Cities Climate Finance Leadership Alliance (CCFLA)
- Global Infrastructure Facility (GIF)
- Long-Term Infrastructure Investors Association (LTIIA)
- Green Economy Coalition
- Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)
- Partnership on Sustainable, Low-Carbon Transport (SLoCaT)
- ISEAL Alliance
- Belt and Road Initiative – International Green Development Coalition (BRIGC)
- Advisors to the Technical Expert Group (TEG)
- Green Building Certification Institute (GRESB)
- ICLEI Resilient Cities Jury
- D20 / Long-Term Investors Club (LTIC)
- Partner of the Transformative Actions Programme

2.4.2 PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS

We thank all our partners and supporters, who are key to helping us deliver on our mission and vision. In 2025, we thank our main funders:

We also thank ECOS AG, who have supported our work financially and technically over the years and continued to provide staff capacity to GIB in 2025.



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OUTLOOK 2026

GIB stands at the forefront of global endeavors aimed at forging a more sustainable, inclusive, and resilient future through the cultivation of strategic partnerships, advocacy and innovation. Our commitment to building upon the successes of the previous year drives us to strive for an even greater impact in 2026.

As we look ahead to 2026, the global context for sustainable infrastructure continues to evolve rapidly. The convergence of geopolitical fragmentation, economic uncertainty, climate pressures, and technological transformation is reshaping the environment in which GIB and our partners operate. What is increasingly clear is that the coming years will require not only adaptation - but a step change in how impact is conceived, delivered, and sustained. Over the past year, GIB has undertaken an intensive process of strategic stocktaking. This has included a comprehensive ecosystem mapping exercise and deep engagement with stakeholders across finance, government, and civil society. These exchanges have provided critical insights into both emerging risks and opportunities, and have helped clarify where GIB can have the greatest impact going forward.

Several key themes have emerged.



First, resilience has moved decisively to the centre of infrastructure decision-making. Climate shocks, supply chain disruptions, and economic volatility are now recognised as structural conditions. At the same time, there is a growing shift towards defence spending and the use of infrastructure to strengthen security of service delivery - particularly in energy systems. The pursuit of energy sovereignty, often through renewable and decentralised solutions, is increasingly seen as both a climate and geopolitical imperative.



Second, the transformative potential of artificial intelligence and automation is widely acknowledged - but so too are the risks. Stakeholders see significant opportunities for AI to improve infrastructure design, performance, and financing. But there is also growing concern regarding unequal access, labour displacement, rising energy demand from data centres, and broader governance challenges. Ensuring that technological change supports inclusive development will be a defining challenge.





Third, geopolitical dynamics are reshaping the infrastructure landscape. There is clear movement towards fragmentation, regionalisation, and the emergence of parallel systems and standards. Many stakeholders point to signals of a changing global order - one where cooperation remains essential, but less assured, and where infrastructure increasingly serves strategic, economic, and political objectives.

Taken together, these insights underline the need for a more focused and systemic approach.

In response, GIB will launch a new strategy from mid-2026, accompanied by a transformation of the organisation. This next phase will sharpen our focus and shift our model - from projects to programmes, and towards system-level interventions that can catalyse lasting change. Our objective is to ensure that sustainable infrastructure delivers resilient, long-term impact - particularly for those most vulnerable to economic, climate, and social shocks. This means strengthening the enabling systems around infrastructure, from standards and financing mechanisms to capacity, governance, and partnerships.

As we enter this next chapter, GIB will continue to act as a trusted partner and convenor, aligning stakeholders and advancing practical solutions. In a world defined by increasing uncertainty, our ambition is to help shape infrastructure systems that are not only sustainable, but equitable, resilient, and fit for the future.





In this context, GIB's main objectives for 2026 are:



To finalise and begin implementing GIB's new 2026–2030 strategy, completing a holistic strategy revision process including a strategic stocktaking of the past 5 years, an ecosystem mapping, long term historical analysis of the field, multiple rounds of stakeholder consultation and options assessment.



To further accelerate impact through our existing flagship programmes, including the FAST-Infra Label, strengthening infrastructure design and financing, Safe & Sound Cities, empowering young people to innovate for safer cities, and our portfolio of programmes aiming to mainstream the use of nature in infrastructure systems.



To deepen partnerships and catalyse collective action across the ecosystem, fostering collaboration in a time of global fragmentation to accelerate systemic change.



To enhance organisational effectiveness and learning, including boosting GIB's effectiveness through AI and ensuring GIB continues to adapt, innovate, and track impact in a rapidly evolving global context.

*Accelerating a mainstream
transition to sustainable, resilient,
and regenerative infrastructure.*



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