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Promoting quality infrastructure for sustainable development through a trusted certification

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A global certification for quality infrastructure investments

- A **trusted signal for investors and other stakeholders** that projects are environmentally and socially sustainable, resilient, open and transparent, and economically efficient.
- Developed by the governments of **Australia, Japan, Spain, Switzerland, Türkiye, the United Kingdom and the United States** with technical support provided by the OECD.
- Open to infrastructure projects **across all major infrastructure sectors in both developed and developing economies.**



Blue Dot Network launch at OECD, April 9th



What is a Blue Dot Network certified project?



Self-assessed against essential requirements derived from commonly-applied international standards



Verified by independent third-party certification bodies



Monitored over the lifecycle of the project



Blue Dot Network Elements



1

Promote sustainable and inclusive economic growth and development.

2

Promote market-driven and private sector-led investment, supported by judicious use of documentation and/or data.

3

Support sound public financial management, debt transparency, and project-level and country-level debt sustainability.

4

Build projects that are resilient to climate change, disasters, and other risks, and aligned with the pathways towards 2050 net-zero emissions needed to keep global temperature change of 1.5 degrees Celsius within reach.

5

Ensure value-for-money over an asset's full life-cycle cost.

6

Build local capacity, with a focus on local skills transfer and local capital markets.

7

Promote protections against corruption, while encouraging transparent procurement and consultation processes.

8

Uphold international best practices of environmental and social safeguards, including respect for labour and human rights.

9

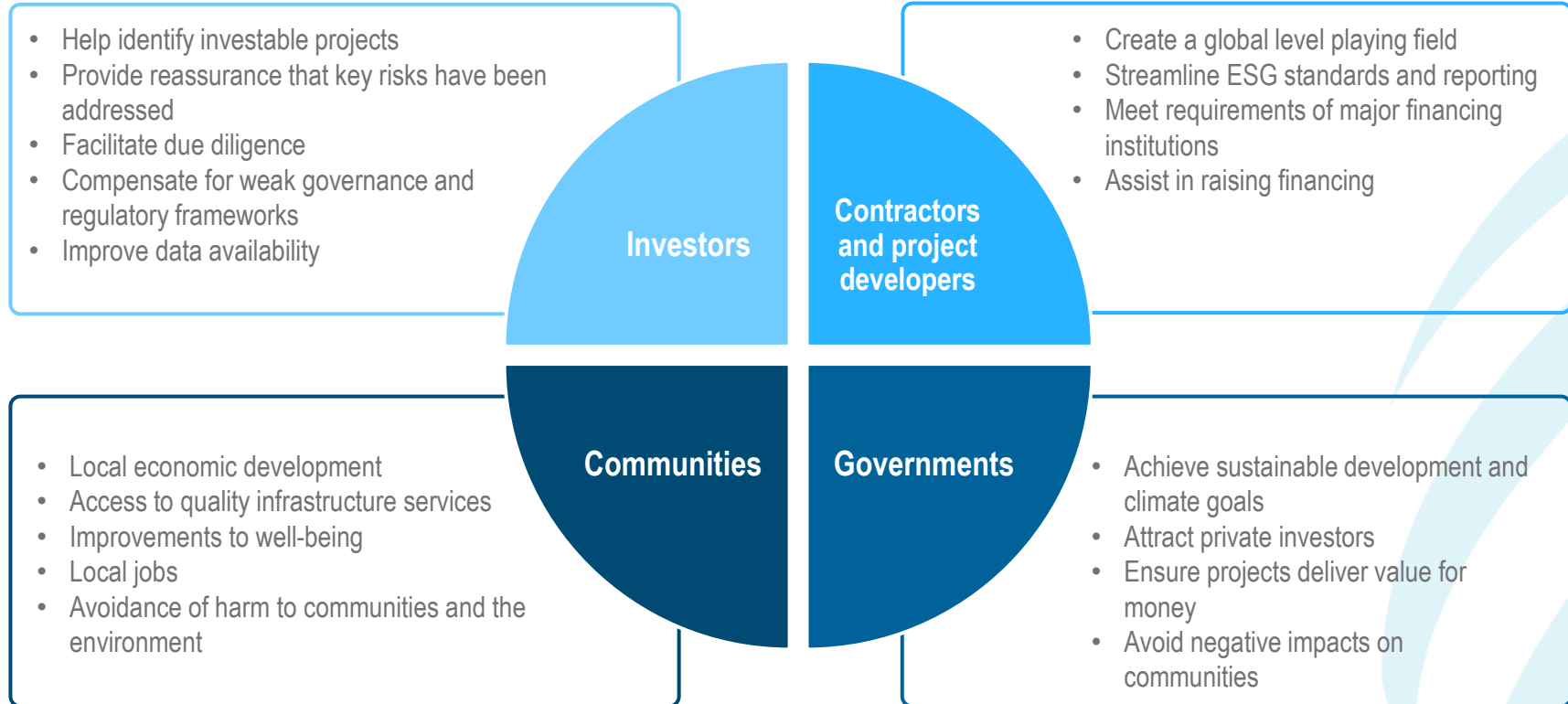
Promote the non-discriminatory use of infrastructure services.

10

Advance inclusion for women, people with disabilities, and underrepresented and marginalised groups.



Value of a Blue Dot Network certification for stakeholders



Leading global investors have guided the development of the Blue Dot Network



David Neal, CEO, *IFM Investors*

“The need for public-private investments in infrastructure projects has never been greater. Infrastructure finance is essential for economic growth, to deliver the new technologies necessary for decarbonisation, as well as retrofitting existing assets for our net zero future. Quality standards like Blue Dot Network by **increasing the confidence of investors and supporting collaboration can only help unlock capital**”.

Torben Möger Pedersen, CEO, *PensionDanmark*

“To accelerate a just green transition, PensionDanmark invests in viable and sustainable infrastructure projects that contributes towards closing the global investment gap in this area. Furthering this effort **requires sound assessment criteria to ensure accountability and incite action**. A crucial contribution to this is the Blue Dot Network that aims at providing a **framework that is commonly recognized and able to step up the sustainable infrastructure investments** that billions of people around the world need.”

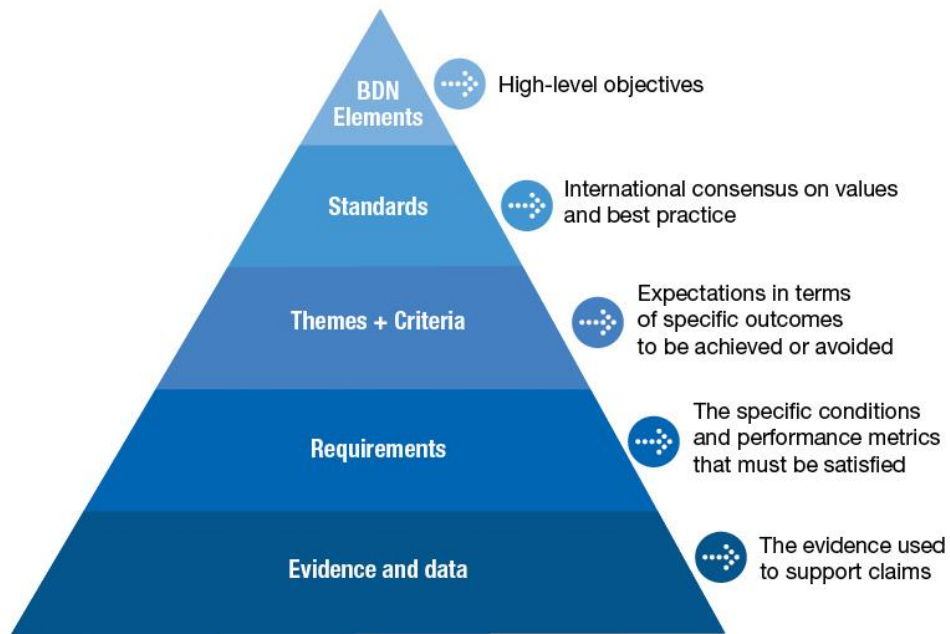
Yves Perrier, Chair, *Amundi*

“It is vital that **ESG considerations and quality infrastructure principles** are embedded into infrastructure investment. We welcome the Blue Dot Network as a critical tool for aligning investors, contractors and other stakeholders on the criteria that will ensure a just transition.”

Ang Eng Seng, Chief Investment Officer for Infrastructure, *GIC*

“As an investor committed to the global transition to a net-zero economy, GIC recognises that quality infrastructure projects will be needed to successfully move the needle. The Blue Dot Network’s efforts to drive robust and transparent standards for sustainable infrastructure projects will help **encourage greater investor confidence** and collaboration in this critical space.”

The BDN certification operationalises QII Principles at the project-level



The Blue Dot Network translates over 80 international standards and assessment frameworks into project-level criteria and requirements

Examples of standards:

- G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment
- IFC Performance Standards
- Sustainable Development Goals
- OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- OECD Recommendation on the Governance of Infrastructure
- UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights

Incentivising a race to the top



Essential

Requirements that reflect **key international standards** for quality infrastructure investment, and which are required for certification. Projects that meet the essential requirements provide reassurance to stakeholders that they are robust and aligned with key international standards.

Superior

Requirements that reflect the expectations conveyed by **more ambitious or new standards** that have received strong international endorsement.

Best-in-class

Requirements that reflect **innovative practices or outcomes** that generate a strong positive impact.



4

Build projects that are resilient to climate change, disasters, and other risks, and aligned with the pathways towards 2050 net-zero emissions needed to keep global temperature change of 1.5 degrees Celsius within reach.

- Greenhouse gas emissions
- Climate risk
- Climate disclosure
- Disaster risk assessment
- Resilient plans and designs
- Emergency preparedness and response



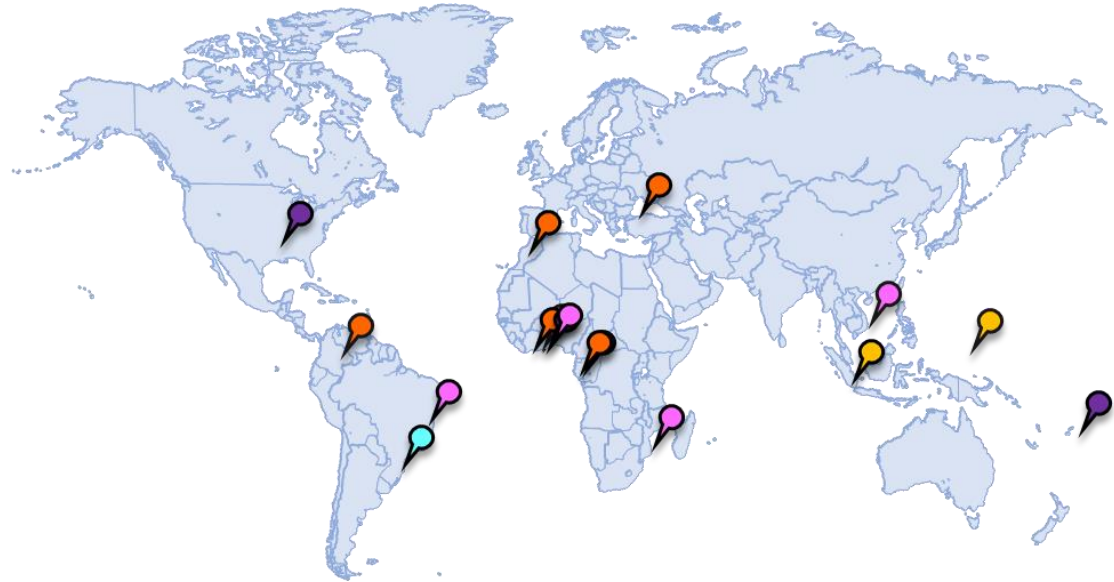
Uphold international best practices of environmental and social safeguards, including respect for labour and human rights.

- Management of environmental and social risks
- Meaningful stakeholder engagement with affected communities
- Biodiversity
- Pollution
- Resource efficiency
- Waste and hazardous materials
- Human rights
- Labour and working conditions
- Community health and well-being
- Indigenous peoples
- Involuntary resettlement and land use restrictions
- Cultural heritage

Piloted on projects across different sectors and regions



- **Aegea** – A major water and sanitation project in **Brazil** that will improve the well-being of millions of people and contribute to environmental restoration
- **Enel** – A huge onshore wind farm in **Brazil**, which, when completed, will be one of the largest in the world
- **Microsoft** – A state-of-the art green data centre in **Indonesia**
- **Belau Sub-sea Cable** - sub-sea fibre optic cable in **Palau**
- **Eurasia Tunnel company** – A road tunnel connecting Asia and Europe underneath the Bosphorus in Istanbul, **Türkiye**
- **OPAIN S.A.** - Leading international airport in **Colombia**
- **Mass Céréales Al Maghreb** - Grain silos in **Morocco**



Application

Projects submit an application by completing the online application form.

1

Self-assessment

Project applicants perform a self-assessment against BDN criteria using an assessment template. As part of the self-assessment, projects submit evidence in the form of documentation and/or data.

2

Verification

An independent third-party certification entity review the self-assessment and verifies whether the evidence supports the claims being made. The verifier may request additional information from the applicant.

3

Certification

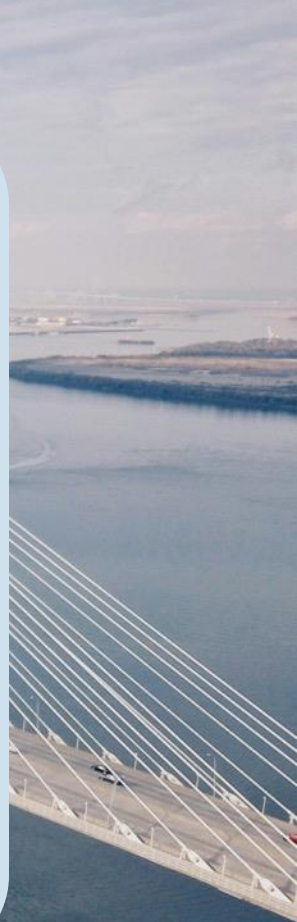
On the basis of the results of the verification, the certification body determines whether or not to award the project a Blue Dot certification

4

Renewal

Project must apply for a renewal of the certification within five years. Projects that are awarded a certification before initiation of operations must apply for renewal within two years after operations begin

5



Engaging with the Blue Dot Network

1. Join the Network
2. Join the Executive Consultation Group
3. Propose projects for certification

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Look again at that dot. That's here. That's home. That's us. On it everyone you love, everyone you know, everyone you ever heard of, every human being who ever was, lived out their lives. [...] To me, it underscores our responsibility to deal more kindly with one another, and to preserve and cherish the pale blue dot, the only home we've ever known.

- Carl Sagan