

# DECLARATION OF SUSTAINABILITY PRINCIPLES

RBGL-RBR-STN-Z-00015

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## ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

A full list of acronyms and abbreviations can be found in RBR Glossary of Abbreviations. The following acronyms and abbreviations are used throughout this document:

Abbreviation	Definition
Declaration	Declaration of Sustainability Principles
IB	Implementing Body
RBGP	Rail Baltica Global Project
RBR	Rail Baltica AS

## 1. OBJECTIVE

- 1.1. The Declaration is developed to affirm RBGP's dedication to sustainability by establishing a framework of sustainability principles with priority areas of commitment to guide the decision-making process across RBGP operations. Declaration serves as a foundation for the development of specific targets, metrics, and sustainability initiatives.

## 2. SCOPE

- 2.1. Declaration is applicable on RBGP level as a supporting framework for future actions and decisions, guiding policies and practices of RBR and IBs.

## 3. SUSTAINABILITY PRINCIPLES

- 3.1. Sustainability principles of RBGP are defined in Table 1.  
 3.2. Priority areas of commitment that require setting targets and tracking with metrics are defined in Table 2.

Table 1. RBGP Sustainability Principles

Subcategory	Sustainability Principles
<b>Environmental Sustainability</b>	
<b>Climate Change Mitigation</b> <i>Minimising climate impact through reducing and monitoring GHG emissions and energy consumption</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reducing GHG emissions</li> <li>GHG monitoring, measures to facilitate the carbon sink</li> <li>Fuel/energy consumption monitoring per train/km</li> <li>Targeting Zero Environmental Impact at Operational and Maintenance Phases</li> </ul>
<b>Climate Change Adaptation</b> <i>Adapting to climate change by enhancing infrastructure resilience and monitoring climate impacts</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhancing infrastructure resilience to climate impacts</li> <li>Monitoring trends and the impacts climate change has on weather patterns</li> </ul>
<b>Air Quality</b> <i>Improving air quality by reducing pollutants and upgrading to cleaner technologies</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reducing pollutants like NOx, particulate matter, and CO2 during construction and operation</li> <li>Upgrading to cleaner engines, eco and synthetic fuels</li> <li>Using battery power and electrification</li> </ul>
<b>Soil Pollution</b> <i>Maintaining soil health by preventing and managing soil usage and contamination</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Infrastructure design avoiding polluted sites where possible</li> <li>Pollution investigation and management in design and construction</li> <li>Spills and accident management during construction</li> <li>Proper waste storage management</li> <li>Fertile soil layer storage and reuse during construction</li> <li>Preventing and managing contamination from rail constructions and operations to protect soil health and surrounding environments</li> </ul>
<b>Biodiversity &amp; Landscape</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensuring animal migration and prevention of barrier effects during construction and operation</li> </ul>

<p><i>Preserving biodiversity and ecological connectivity through habitat protection and wildlife monitoring</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitoring and/or installation of temporary mitigation measures to ensure that construction will not impact neighbouring sensitive areas and migration corridors</li> <li>• Reuse of fertile soil with the native seed bank</li> <li>• Protecting habitats, restoring affected areas, monitoring of wildlife, monitoring the established animal passages and designing infrastructure that minimises ecological impacts</li> </ul>
<p><b>Noise &amp; Vibrations</b></p> <p><i>Minimising noise and vibration impacts on communities and wildlife</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation of noise barriers, and vibration-dampening technologies to protect communities and wildlife</li> <li>• Consideration of low-noise rolling stock traction systems and low-noise transformers and switchgear</li> <li>• Implementing technologies and practices with less noise and vibration impact, and scheduling works to respect required silent periods during construction</li> <li>• Monitoring of noise and vibration impact and good maintenance of established systems once operational</li> </ul>
<p><b>Waste, Materials &amp; Resources</b></p> <p><i>Promoting resource efficiency and waste reduction through sustainable materials use and recycling</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Using sustainable materials, recycling, and efficient waste management to reduce resource use and waste</li> <li>• Responsible planning and use of raw materials (accounting for the volumes, choice of sites and assessment)</li> <li>• Reuse of topsoil and fertile soil</li> </ul>
<p><b>Water</b></p> <p><i>Conservation of water resources and prevention of pollution through sustainable water management practices</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Designing suitable drainage systems, water protection measures and structures with the least impact possible on waterbodies</li> <li>• Avoiding sensitive areas, preventing pollution runoff, and maintaining natural water flows during construction</li> <li>• Where possible, avoid changes in the hydrological regime of surface water bodies</li> <li>• Ensuring water metering and monitoring, and the maintenance of water and drainage systems during operation</li> </ul>
<b>Economic Sustainability</b>	
<p><b>Circular Economy</b></p> <p><i>Maintaining the value of products, materials, and resources by minimising waste by returning them to the product cycle at the end of their use</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encouraging reuse and recycling of components</li> <li>• Promotion of sustainable material use</li> <li>• Implementation of design for disassembly and reuse</li> </ul>
<p><b>Sustainable Business Practices</b></p> <p><i>Adopting economically viable, environmentally friendly, and socially responsible operations to ensure long-term resilience and adaptability</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduction of environmental impacts of business practices and enhance social value</li> <li>• Aiming for economic efficiency with innovation</li> </ul>
<b>Social Sustainability</b>	
<p><b>Community Development</b></p> <p><i>Contributing to the economic and social development of communities through</i></p>	<p>Social:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting economic development with local partnerships</li> <li>• Improve access to services and infrastructure</li> </ul>

<p><i>job creation, support for local businesses, and infrastructure investments</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhance local community facilities</li> <li>• Minimise barrier effects sometimes caused by linear infrastructure projects</li> <li>• Facilitating community and (external) Stakeholder Engagement and Grievance mechanisms</li> </ul> <p>Economic:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased access to job markets, education and healthcare systems</li> <li>• Real estate development</li> <li>• Urban renovation</li> <li>• Sustainable stations and maintenance facilities</li> </ul>
<p><b>Social Equity &amp; Inclusion</b></p> <p><i>Distributing the benefits of rail services fairly across society and mitigating negative impacts on disadvantaged communities, ensuring rail services are accessible and affordable to all, including Passengers with Reduced Mobility (PRM)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure equitable access to services</li> <li>• Promote inclusive participation</li> </ul>
<p><b>Labour Rights</b></p> <p><i>Safeguarding fair wages, safe working conditions, and ethical sourcing within the railway industry and its supply chain</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upholding safety and rights for workers</li> <li>• Ensuring fair labour practices in the supply chain</li> </ul>
<p><b>Community Health &amp; Safety</b></p> <p><i>Implementing measures to protect communities near railways from accidents, pollution, and noise, and ensuring safe access to railway services</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protecting the public from railway-related risks</li> <li>• Minimising environmental health hazards</li> <li>• Ensuring safe access to railway services</li> </ul>
<p><b>Technological Sustainability</b></p>	
<p><b>Green Technology</b></p> <p><i>Adopting eco-friendly innovations to reduce environmental impacts, such as renewable energy, electrification, energy-efficient designs, and emission reduction technologies</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Integration of renewable energy sources and enhancing energy efficiency</li> <li>• Adopting emission-reducing technologies</li> </ul>
<p><b>Digitalisation</b></p> <p><i>Using digital technologies to enhance operational efficiency, safety, and passenger experiences, including data analytics, IoT for infrastructure monitoring, automated trains, and digital ticketing systems</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Optimising operational efficiency with digital technology</li> <li>• Improving safety with automated systems</li> <li>• Enhancing passenger experience through innovation</li> </ul>
<p><b>Sustainable Governance and Policy</b></p>	
<p><b>Stakeholder Relations</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engaging transparently with all stakeholders</li> <li>• Ensuring participatory decision-making</li> </ul>

<i>Engaging transparently and collaboratively with all parties interested in or affected by railway operations to ensure inclusive decision-making</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reflecting diverse interests and perspectives</li> </ul>
<b>Environmental Policy</b> <i>Adopting principles and commitments that guide the organisation's environmental stewardship, including pollution reduction, resource conservation, and climate action</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prioritising environmental stewardship</li> <li>Promotion of sustainable resource use</li> <li>Commit to pollution reduction and climate mitigation</li> </ul>
<b>Corporate ESG</b> <i>Integrating environmental, social, and governance factors into railway operations to ensure sustainable, ethical, and socially responsible business practices</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Embedding ESG considerations in corporate strategy</li> <li>Driving sustainable, ethical, and responsible practices</li> <li>Integration of ESG into operations and culture</li> </ul>
<b>Sustainable Procurement</b> <i>Selecting eco-friendly materials, technologies, and services for operations to reduce environmental impact and promote sustainability in the supply chain</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Procurement of environmentally friendly materials and services</li> <li>Support for sustainable supply chains</li> <li>Promotion of products with minimal environmental footprints</li> </ul>
<b>Cultural Sustainability</b>	
<b>Cultural Heritage Preservation</b> <i>Safeguarding historical and cultural sites and practices, ensuring rail development respects and maintains local cultural identities</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protection of cultural heritage and historical sites</li> <li>Ensuring the development respects local cultural identities</li> <li>Engaging with communities to preserve cultural heritage</li> </ul>
<b>Local Sustainability Challenges</b> <i>Tailoring rail operations to address the unique needs of local communities, supporting their specific sustainability goals</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adaptation of operations to meet local sustainability needs</li> <li>Addressing environmental, social, and economic challenges</li> <li>Implementation of context-sensitive sustainability solutions</li> </ul>

Table 2. Priority areas of commitment

No	Title	Description
1.	<b>Achieve Carbon Neutrality</b>	Aim to make Rail Baltica as close to Carbon Neutral as possible by increasing the use of renewable energy and sustainable solutions to reduce negative environmental impacts
2.	<b>Biodiversity Conservation</b>	Implement strategies to preserve and enhance biodiversity along the railway, including habitat restoration and the creation of green corridors



3.	<b>Sustainable Materials Use</b>	Promote, to the extent possible, the use of recycled and sustainable materials in construction and maintenance, with a goal to reduce waste and promote circular economy practices
4.	<b>Noise and Vibration Reduction</b>	Minimise noise and vibration impact on nearby communities and ecosystems
5.	<b>Water Quality</b>	Monitor and manage water quality to reduce pollution levels, especially in construction & sensitive areas
6.	<b>Climate Resilience</b>	Adapt for climate change by delivering and operating infrastructure that is fit for the future
7.	<b>Community Engagement and Inclusion</b>	Proactively partner with local communities and other stakeholders to ensure the project meets social needs, promotes inclusive benefits, and preserves cultural heritage
8.	<b>Community Safety</b>	Promote community safety and sense of security by adhering to the highest safety standards, conducting rigorous risk assessments, and engaging with local communities to address their concerns effectively
9.	<b>Technology and Digitalisation</b>	Proactively plan for and incorporate ECTS, mobile coverage, and other green technology and digitalisation for RBGP infrastructure
10.	<b>Local and Regional Economic Development</b>	Ensure access to services, job markets, education, healthcare, and cultural institutions, while fostering local and regional economic development along the RBGP corridor
11.	<b>Sustainable Procurement</b>	Design, apply, and execute procurement policies in a fair and transparent manner to support the market in meeting the highest possible sustainability standards
12.	<b>Corporate ESG Integration</b>	Embed and track ESG factors into corporate decision-making, including strategic planning and operations
13.	<b>Coordination and Collaboration</b>	Closely coordinate and collaborate among the RBGP companies to meet the commitments to sustainability issues, activities, and performance at all management levels
14.	<b>Sustainability Awareness</b>	Promote sustainability for all workers and stakeholders to enhance awareness and implementation of best practices, including through training for employees and sustainability awareness campaigns
15.	<b>Transparency and Reporting</b>	Commit to high standards of transparency and regular reporting on sustainability goals