



Institute of  
Business Risk  
By Earth Academy

Starting  
10th November 2026

# IBR Certified — Sustainability Risk Professional

The first and only experiential sustainability risk certification — assessed on judgment, not memory.

## Program Overview





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# About the Program

Sustainability Risk Professional is a credential for sustainability, risk management, finance and compliance professionals who are responsible for governing sustainability risk inside their organizations.

It teaches you how to govern sustainability risk — how to recognize and foresee the forces creating it, prioritise what matters most, embed it into your enterprise risk management framework and demonstrate that governance to regulators, boards and investors.

The Program combines a three-day live preparation masterclass with a formal assessed certification — both designed and delivered by the same IBR faculty. Your engagement across the masterclass contributes to your final certification score. Your results are delivered in a personal conversation with your assessor.



## WHO THIS IS FOR

- **Sustainability Directors and ESG Managers**
- **Sustainability and Climate consultants**
- **Business Risk professionals**
- **Finance professionals with sustainability disclosure obligations**
- **Chief Risk Officers and senior risk leaders**
- **Compliance professionals responsible for CSDDD, CSRD and modern slavery obligations**
- **Internal auditors building sustainability assurance frameworks**

*Minimum eligibility: At least 2 year of professional experience in sustainability, risk management, finance or compliance with direct exposure to sustainability obligations.*



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# How the full Program works

IBR Certified is a structured Program where preparation, instruction and assessment are fully integrated, and where the people who teach you are the same people who assess and give you feedback on your performance.

## The Preparation Masterclass

Three days of live virtual instruction covering ten chapters across three modules. Your engagement, reasoning and application of frameworks across all three days is observed by IBR faculty and contributes 20% of your final certification score.

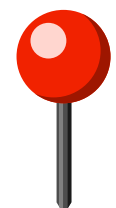
## Assessment Day

A single 120-minute live virtual session combining two scored components.

1. Written assessment: 30 open-book scenario-based questions covering the ten chapters. 1 hour
2. Live group exercise: 1 Hour long facilitated group work on a real sustainability risk scenario, observed and scored by a trained IBR assessor.

## Results and Feedback

Every participant receives a personal 15-minute feedback call with their assessor within two weeks of assessment day. Your assessor walks you through your performance across all three components with specific, detailed feedback and where your strongest development opportunities lie.



**Your final score combines three weighted components: masterclass participation (20%), written assessment (40%) and live group exercise (40%). If your first attempt does not meet the pass mark of 70%, your feedback call becomes your preparation session for a second attempt — included at no additional cost.**



# The Preparation Masterclass

## MODULE



### Understand the Evolving Sustainability Landscape and Its Implications

Understand how sustainability and ESG have become a core enterprise risk concern, driven by an interlocking set of forces: regulation, capital market and investor expectations, litigation and enforcement, stakeholder scrutiny, and physical and systemic disruption. Establish a working taxonomy of sustainability risk across the environmental, social and governance domains and identify where your organization's exposures.

**This Module has 4 Chapters**

**Chapter 1 – The Sustainability Risk Imperative**

**Chapter 2 – Environmental Risks**

**Chapter 3 – Social Risks**

**Chapter 4 – Governance Risks**





# The Preparation Masterclass

## Understand the Evolving Sustainability Landscape and Its Implications - Chapter Details

### Chapter 1

#### The Sustainability Risk Imperative

This chapter introduces sustainability and ESG as a core dimension of enterprise risk and explores why the topic is squarely on the agenda of boards, CEOs, and risk leaders. Participants examine the interlocking drivers reshaping the landscape, including regulation (with global spread and extraterritorial reach), capital markets and investor expectations, customer and workforce dynamics, litigation and enforcement, and physical and systemic shifts such as climate change, nature loss, and geopolitical disruption. The chapter also addresses competing perspectives on sustainability and how leaders navigate them, and it establishes the leader's stake: competitiveness, resilience, enterprise value at risk, and defensibility under scrutiny.

### Chapter 2

#### Environmental Risks

This chapter establishes the breadth of environmental risk facing organizations, spanning climate change (physical and transition), nature and biodiversity loss, water and resource scarcity, pollution, and circular economy pressures. Participants explore how each domain materializes as financial, operational, strategic, and reputational risk, and examine leading regulatory regimes shaping disclosure and conduct, including ISSB IFRS S2 and CSRD/ESRS E1 on climate, TNFD and EUDR on nature and deforestation, CBAM on trade-linked emissions, and the US state-level climate disclosure regime (e.g., CA SB 253 and SB 261).

The chapter previews the program's dedicated deep dives on climate and nature.

### Chapter 3

#### Social Risks

This chapter examines the spectrum of social risks affecting organizations, including human rights and modern slavery, labor practices and workforce wellbeing, community impact and license to operate, inclusion, just transition, and product and customer outcomes. Participants explore how social risks materialize across the value chain, ranging from forced labor exposure in supply chains to community opposition affecting project timelines and operational continuity. They also examine leading regulatory regimes addressing each, such as the UFLPA and EU Forced Labor Regulation, the global suite of modern slavery transparency laws, conflict minerals rules, CSRD/ESRS S1-S4, and the foundational frameworks of human rights due diligence, including under the CSDDD, the UN Guiding Principles, and OECD Guidelines.

### Chapter 4

#### Governance Risks

This chapter examines the governance risks that underpin and amplify environmental and social exposures, including ethics and conduct, anti-bribery and corruption, AI and data ethics, and third-party and extended enterprise risk. Participants explore leading regulations shaping governance expectations, including anti-bribery regimes (FCPA, UK Bribery Act), value chain due diligence frameworks (CSDDD, CSRD/ESRS G1), AI governance (e.g., EU AI Act), and anti-greenwashing regimes (e.g., EU Green Claims Directive). The chapter establishes governance as the connective tissue across the sustainability risk landscape and sets up Module 3's deeper treatment of integration and oversight.

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## Prioritize Sustainability/ESG Risks

Identify and prioritize the company's material sustainability/ESG risks, using leading methods of risk identification and assessment (including financial and double materiality), scenario analysis to stress-test resilience, and a business case that translates risk into the financial and strategic language leadership requires. This module builds the discipline of prioritization required for board and executive decision-making and equips participants to link sustainability risk to enterprise value, competitiveness, and resilience.

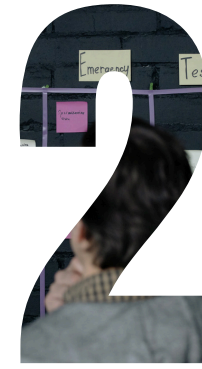
### **This Module has 3 Chapters**

**Chapter 5 — Identifying and Assessing Material Sustainability/ESG Risks**

**Chapter 6 — Scenario Analysis**

**Chapter 7 — Building the Business Case for Sustainability Risk Management**





# The Preparation Masterclass

## Prioritize Sustainability/ESG Risks

### Chapter 5

#### Identifying and Assessing Material Sustainability/ESG Risks

This chapter establishes the practical methods organizations use to identify and assess material sustainability/ESG risks across the value chain and across time horizons. Participants explore identification approaches (value chain mapping, stakeholder engagement, peer benchmarking, expert input), including the materiality methodologies set out in leading sustainability frameworks: financial materiality under IFRS Sustainability standards (ISSB) and double materiality under ESRS. The chapter then examines assessment techniques, including heat mapping, risk scoring, and qualitative and quantitative analysis, with reference to leading enterprise risk management frameworks such as COSO ERM and ISO 31000, and acknowledges the data limitations and uncertainty inherent to sustainability risk.

### Chapter 6

#### Scenario Analysis

This chapter focuses on scenario analysis as a discipline for stress-testing sustainability/ESG risks and informing strategic decision-making under uncertainty. Participants explore the design and application of leading scenario frameworks, including climate scenarios (e.g., NGFS, IPCC), nature scenarios (e.g., TNFD-aligned), and social and geopolitical scenarios, applied across short-, medium-, and long-term horizons. The chapter examines how organizations integrate scenario outputs into strategic planning, capital allocation, and resilience decisions, and how leaders use scenarios to navigate deep uncertainty over multi-decade horizons.

### Chapter 7

#### Building the Business Case for Sustainability Risk Management

This chapter explains how organizations connect sustainability/ESG risks to enterprise value, resilience, and long-term performance. Participants learn how to communicate risk implications to leadership, boards, and investors using financial and strategic language. The chapter explores how sustainability risk management supports competitiveness, operational resilience, innovation, reputation protection, and long-term value creation.

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## Integrate and Report

Embed sustainability/ESG into the company's risk management strategy, governance, and operating model, with the disclosure and reporting discipline required to demonstrate progress and withstand scrutiny. This module covers integration into enterprise risk management (drawing on leading frameworks such as COSO ERM and ISO 31000), governance and accountability structures, strategic integration into capital allocation and transition planning, and the data, disclosure, and assurance practices that satisfy regulatory schemes (e.g., CSRD, IFRS Sustainability) and support credible reporting.

### This Module has 3 Chapters

**Chapter 8 – Integrating Sustainability into Enterprise Risk Management and Governance**

**Chapter 9 – Strategic Integration and Operating Model**

**Chapter 10 – Disclosure, Data, and Continuous Improvement**





# The Preparation Masterclass

## Integrate and Report

### Chapter 8

#### Integrating Sustainability into Enterprise Risk Management and Governance

This chapter examines how organizations embed sustainability/ESG into enterprise risk management and governance structures, building on the frameworks introduced in Module 2 (COSO ERM, ISO 31000).

Participants explore how leading organizations incorporate sustainability into risk registers, risk appetite statements, escalation protocols, and the three-lines-of-defense model, and how governance design (board oversight, risk and audit committee mandates, executive accountability) drives leadership focus and aligned decision-making. The chapter also addresses how executive compensation and incentive structures reinforce accountability for sustainability outcomes.

### Chapter 9

#### Strategic Integration and Operating Model

This chapter focuses on how sustainability/ESG considerations are integrated into strategic decision-making and the operating model that supports it. Participants explore how organizations incorporate sustainability into capital allocation, transition planning, mergers and acquisitions, and management of third-party and extended enterprise risk, and examine the decision-making rhythms (planning cycles, executive reviews, escalation forums) that operationalize these connections. The chapter also addresses the talent, capability, and cultural enablers (cross-functional ownership and tone from the top) that determine whether sustainability integration is embedded in operations rather than treated as a parallel exercise.

### Chapter 10

#### Disclosure, Data, and Continuous Improvement

This chapter focuses on the disclosure, data, and assurance practices that support defensible sustainability reporting and continuous improvement of the risk management discipline. Participants explore how organizations design disclosure approaches aligned with leading global standards (e.g., CSRD/ESRS, IFRS Sustainability), with attention to greenwashing risk. They also examine the data architecture and technology enablers (including AI applications) required to produce reliable, decision-grade sustainability information. The chapter addresses the assurance pathway (limited and reasonable assurance), the key performance indicators that measure progress, and how organizations strengthen the sustainability risk management discipline through learning and continuous improvement.



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# The Assessment Day

Assessment day is a single 120-minute (excluding break) live virtual session that brings together the two scored components of IBR Certified — Sustainability Risk Professional. It takes place within two weeks of completing the masterclass and is attended by all participants from your cohort.

There are no surprises on assessment day. The frameworks, topics and scenario types you will encounter are drawn directly from the ten chapters of the masterclass. Participants who engaged fully across the three days — bringing real examples from their organizations and working through the exercises as they were designed — arrive well prepared.

Your camera must be on throughout the session.

Assessment criteria across both components are shared with all participants at least five business days before assessment day.



## Assessment Day Details

### **PART 1**

**Written Assessment • 1 hour** • open book Thirty scenario-based questions covering the sustainability risk domains and the regulatory landscape across all ten chapters. You may refer to your masterclass materials, templates and notes throughout — the written assessment tests your ability to apply frameworks to real situations, not your ability to recall definitions from memory.

*Contributes 40% of your final certification score.*

### **PART 2**

**Live Group Exercise • 1 Hour** • observed and scored A facilitated group exercise in which all cohort participants work together on a structured sustainability risk scenario drawn from a real-world organizational context. The scenario is complex by design — there is no single correct answer, and your assessor is watching how you think, how you contribute and how you make decisions under time pressure, not whether you arrive at a predetermined conclusion.

*Contributes 40% of your final certification score.*



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# Results and Feedback



Every participant · Every outcome · Within 1–2 weeks of assessment day

Every participant — whether they pass or are working toward a second attempt — receives a personal 15-minute feedback call with their IBR assessor, scheduled within one to two weeks of assessment day.

It is a structural part of how IBR Certified is designed. A credential that claims to assess judgment and develop capability owes every participant a genuine professional conversation about what their performance demonstrated — not just a number.

On that call your assessor walks you through your performance across all three scored components in detail. You receive your full scored breakdown before the call ends. You leave knowing not just whether you passed — but why.

## What you receive on passing

- IBR Certified — Sustainability Risk Professional certificate · Print-quality PDF formally issued by the Institute of Business Risk
- LinkedIn digital badge · Add to your profile immediately on passing with a verification link
- IBR Certified Professional directory listing · Public listing on [theibr.org](https://theibr.org)
- 10 CPE credits · CPD Standards Office accredited · awarded on passing

## What if you do not pass the first time

The IBR Certification is focused on rigor and application of real world thinking, which can't be judged based on a simple multiple choice exam, we recognize that some participants may need multiple opportunities to achieve the desired level.

Each candidate will have two attempts included in their Program fee and will receive feedback to help close any gaps with potential opportunities to strengthen your professional skills and impact even further.



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# Program Fee

**€850**

**per candidate · all-inclusive**

Group registration discounts, contact us (Min 3 people)  
Earth Academy Alumni get additional discount

## Everything in your fee

- Three-day live Sustainability Risk Management Masterclass
- All course materials, frameworks and templates
- Access to masterclass reading
- Assessment day — written exam and live group exercise
- Personal 15-minute feedback call with your assessor
- Certificate of completion and LinkedIn digital badge
- 10 CPE credits · CPD Standards Office accredited
- One free reassessment attempt if needed



# The IBR-SRP Differentiator

A direct comparison across the four dimensions  
that define certification quality

## What Makes IBR Certified Different

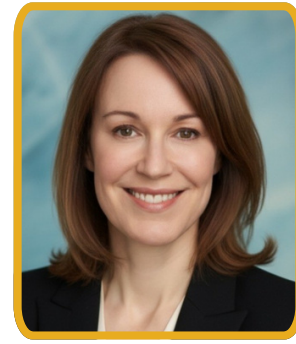
DIMENSION	Typical ESG Certifications	IBR-Sustainability Risk Professional
Preparation	You are given a self paced course or a pdf to get instructions. There is no faculty interaction.	A <b>3 day Masterclass</b> and offline interactions with the same people who will assess you. Optional <b>Group Learning session</b> post masterclass.
Assessment	Multiple choice, closed book, testing memory and recall, no scenario judgement, automated marking.	Open book assessment testing application, observed group exercise, scored on analysis and quality of reasoning.
Feedback	Automated Pass/Fail results, delivered via email, no guidance on development, no comprehensive feedback.	Personal feedback call, full score breakdown, clear guidance on strongest development opportunity.
Performance Summary (On Request)	No detailed feedback to showcase future employers	IBR issues a one-page Candidate Performance Summary that describes the candidate's assessed performance across the assessment. This document can be sent to current and future employers
Your Faculty and Assessor	Teachers and examiners are different people, with unknown credentials. You end up paying for the logo, not knowledge.	Same Practitioners who teach, also assess you. They observe your thinking and your growth over the program.



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# Your Faculty

The faculty who deliver your masterclass are the same practitioners who assess your performance on assessment day and give you personal feedback on your results. They know your context, your sector and your reasoning by the time the assessment begins. It is what makes IBR Certified a genuine professional development experience rather than just a credentialing exercise.



## Lorinda Niemeyer

Lorinda Niemeyer is a sustainability leader with over 25 years of experience spanning strategy, ESG, and climate-related transformation. Her career reflects a rare combination of regulatory insight, top-tier consulting expertise, and hands-on corporate leadership — all grounded in a belief that sustainability is a powerful driver of long-term value and business performance. She spent nearly two decades at McKinsey & Company, where she served as both a consultant and a senior leader in sustainability strategy, communications, and reporting. She now leads sustainability for the North American subsidiary of a large European insurance group, translating strategy into real-world implementation. Lorinda holds an MBA and an MA from Stanford University.



## Shivani Rajpal

Shivani Rajpal is the Chief Executive Officer of Earth Academy and a recognized expert in sustainability and ESG reporting, with over 20 years of international experience in professional training and advisory services. She has delivered hundreds of training Programs and consulting engagements worldwide, supporting organizations in strengthening their sustainability and non-financial reporting practices. Prior to joining Earth Academy, Shivani served as Director of Services and Training at the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), where she played a key role in building global capacity for the implementation of the GRI Standards. Shivani has worked extensively with Fortune 500 companies, stock exchanges, and government institutions, guiding them in the adoption and practical application of leading sustainability reporting frameworks.



## Asthildur Hjaltadottir-de la Fuente

Asthildur Hjaltadottir-de la Fuente is a senior sustainability and ESG reporting expert with extensive international experience in managing complex Programs and leading cross-border teams across multiple geographies. She brings over 16 years of specialised experience in sustainability reporting gained at the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), the world's leading organization in the field. During her tenure at GRI, Asthildur held senior leadership roles, including serving as Chief Sustainability Officer, where she played a central role in advancing the global adoption and practical implementation of sustainability reporting standards.



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**Ready to register or want to know more?**

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[learn@theibr.org](mailto:learn@theibr.org)

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