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Review Article

A Unified Sustainability Assessment Metrics for the Countries of the

Gulf Cooperation Council - A Critical Study

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Abstract: Many governmental authorities and international organizations have embraced ecologically friendly building standards and achieved sustainable design as the concept of sustainable architecture and its numerous economic, environmental, and social development aims has grown. Despite the Gulf Cooperation Council countries' continuous and joint cooperation, and despite their agreement in climatic and environmental conditions and resources, and their heavy reliance on oil products, and countries' aspirations for unity, there is a large gap represented in the multiplicity of sustainability assessment systems in those countries. According to the Gulf Cooperation Council's charter. Based on this, the research aims to study sustainability assessment systems in a number of countries that have begun to work on sustainability assessment systems. An analytical comparative study of sustainability assessment systems in Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and the system for the Emirate of Dubai within the United Arab Emirates, known as Al Sa'fat, and the State of Qatar, represented by the QSAS system. The different systems can be unified, their assessment individually demonstrated strengths and weaknesses for each. Gulf Cooperation Council countries have sustainability assessment systems can be unified, their assessment individually demonstrated strengths and weaknesses for each. Gulf Cooperation Council countries have sustainability assessment systems that needs further updates and inclusion of different architectural design elementss.

Keywords: Sustainability Assessment Metrics, Nations of Gulf Cooperation Council, MOSTADAM, ESTIDAMA, QAQS, AL SA'FAT. Rating System.

1. Introduction

On May 25, 1981, in Abu Dhabi, the leaders of the United Arab Emirates, the State of Bahrain, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Sultanate of Oman, the State of Qatar, and the State of Kuwait reached a cooperative formula aimed at achieving coordination, integration, and interdependence between their countries in all fields. The rationale for achieving unity was stated clearly in the statute's preamble, which emphasized the particular links between the six nations, related traits, similar systems founded on the Islamic faith, and trust in a single destiny and unity of purpose (S. G. o. t. G. C. Council, 2022). The GCC countries are distinguished by the depth of ties that, as a whole, represent factors of rapprochement and unification, which is reinforced by the flat geographical area across the coastal desert environment that embraces the inhabitants of this region, facilitates communication and communication between them and creates cohesion and homogeneity in identity and values. It was also agreed upon the council's objectives, which are to achieve coordination, integration, and interdependence among member states in all fields in order to achieve unity, strengthen ties between their peoples, and establish similar systems in various economic, financial, commercial, customs, and transportation fields, as well as educational,

Country name	Capital	Citizens	Population	Area (km ²)
Kingdom Saudi Arabia	Riyadh	33,000,000	20,768,627	2,149,690
Sultanate of Oman	Muscat	4,592,115	2,521,289	309,500
United Arab Emirates	Abu Dhabi	9,397,000	1,588,820	83,600
Kuwait	Kuwait	4,348,395	1,385,766	17,820
Qatar	Doha	2,675,522	560,173	11,581
Bahrain	Manama	1,378,000	664,707	765
Total		44,829,043	27,489,382	2,673,123

Table (1). Basic information about the Arab Gulf Cooperation Countries

cultural, social, health, and media affairs.

Tourism, legislative, and administrative issues encourage scientific and technological advancement in the domains of industry, mining, agriculture, water, and animal resources by creating scientific research institutions, launching collaborative projects, and promoting private sector collaboration (S. G. o. t. G. C. Council, 2022).

The Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf, also known as the Gulf Cooperation Council or the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf as shown in figure no (1), is an Arab regional political, economic, military, and security organization made up of six Arab countries that overlook the Arabian Gulf and cover the majority of the Arabian Peninsula. Table No. 1 explains the following (wikipedia, 2022).

In regard to the Arab world, the Gulf Cooperation Council nations are positioned to the east. The Gulf Cooperation Council nations are located between longitudes 35 and 60 east of the Greenwich line and latitudes 16 and 32 north of the equator. The Cancer Tropic runs across many Gulf Cooperation Council nations.

The research raises an important research question about the extent of the possibility of creating a unified system for assessing sustainability in the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council, based on the unity of the common destiny, environmental and geographical compatibility, and the great sharing of the natural resources of the countries of the region, as stated in the preamble to the statute, which stressed the special relations that link the six countries. Common features, similar systems, as well as the procedures that countries take in order to achieve this.

The research aims to study sustainability assessment systems in a number of countries that have begun to work on sustainability assessment systems, namely the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia represented by a sustainable system and the United Arab Emirates represented by the sustainability system and the system of the Emirate of Dubai, based on those common concepts on which the Gulf Cooperation Council countries were founded. Within the UAE, known as Al Sa'fat, and the State



Figure (1). The Gulf Cooperation Council states (S. G. o. t. G. C. Council, 2022a)

of Qatar, represented in the QSAS system. Each of them was compared and analyzed in order to approach and answer the study question, as well as the extent to which a joint sustainability assessment system or a unified Gulf system might be developed to evaluate the sustainability systems in the Gulf Cooperation Council nations.

2. Sustainability and Green Architecture

2.1 Green Buildings Definitions:

Green buildings may be defined in two ways. The former describes green buildings as structures created using environmentally friendly procedures that employ resources efficiently during the building's whole existence (Agency). It is the result of the Environmental Protection Agency's work in the United States (EPA). Nonetheless, that idea extends beyond traditional building issues such as cost, durability, and comfort. There are two primary definitions of green buildings. The former describes green buildings as structures created using environmentally friendly procedures that effectively employ resources during the building's full existence (Agency). It is the result of the Environmental Protection Agency's efforts (EPA). Nonetheless, that concept extends beyond traditional building factors such as cost, durability, and comfort (Abou Liela, 2017).

2.2 Green Architecture in the Gulf Cooperation Council Region

A group of architectural experts said at the "INDEX" show in the United Arab Emirates that the Gulf Cooperation Council countries may save 3.5 billion dollars by using energy-efficient "green buildings," emphasizing that in light of the acquisition of energy and facilities management. According to a recent analysis by the Middle East Association for Management, energy-efficient buildings in the GCC may save up to \$3.5 billion when combined with up to 90% of building expenses, including \$2 billion in the UAE alone. Facilities. Although the use of glass surfaces is used in many of the projects, architects and building owners in the Arab Gulf region are increasingly required to work by following international best practices in energy efficiency, in line with national sustainability programs adopted in several countries such as the UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Qatar. Appropriate shade and seclusion are essential for achieving comfort within structures, achieving the needed savings in energy expenditures, and providing good visual designs (Lusail, May 18, 2016; Ramadan, May 18, 2016).

The Gulf Cooperation Council countries have qualitative opportunities to benefit from the boom in projects they are witnessing and through the various visions launched by the countries to lay the foundations of a green industry that



Figure (2). A Map Showing Different Rating Systems around the World(Abou Liela, 2017)

meets environmental standards, especially since this sector represents an appealing investment opportunity in light of the growing global demand for green buildings, i.e. those that meet environmental standards through design. The Gulf Cooperation Council countries have qualitative opportunities to benefit from the boom in projects they are witnessing and through the various visions launched by the countries to lay the foundations of a green industry that meets environmental standards, especially since this sector represents an appealing investment opportunity in light of the growing global demand for green buildings, i.e., those that meet environmental standards through construction. Because of the constant building and construction activity and the creation of large-scale infrastructure projects, as well as these countries' efforts to specialize in a new economic sector, the Arab Gulf area is regarded one of the world's major construction marketplaces. The green construction industry is the most strategic sector for Gulf nations to invest in long term, as it contributes to accomplishing its development goals by providing contemporary and sophisticated infrastructure that keeps pace with the global wave of green technology(Mahroum, Saturday 14 April 2018) (Mahroum, Wednesday 18 April 2018).

2.3 Environmental Sustainability Assessment Systems

With the expansion of the concept of architecture sustainable and its numerous economic, environmental, and social development aims, many governmental bodies and international organizations have sought to adopt environmentally friendly construction standards in order to accomplish sustainable design. These systems promote the design, construction, and administration of environmentally friendly facilities, as well as the advancement of environmentally responsible building practices. They also play a role in motivating investors to improve their performance by utilizing an objective and authorized instrument that represents the quality of their buildings' environmental performance, giving them a competitive edge in the real estate market. The usage of these systems began voluntary, but some towns have begun to insist that certain degrees be met in order for new projects to be permitted (Zhang, 2019).

These systems rely on providing an assessment

in order to compare the performance of buildings. These systems are classified into four areas based on their field of interest: urban planning tools, urban design tools, tools for assessing the sustainability of the building, and assessment tools at various stages of the structure's existence (Lazar, 2020). Since 1990, various environmental evaluation methods for buildings have emerged and been launched across the world, the most prominent of which are Environmental sustainability assessment systems are defined as the methodology, standards, and foundations that aim to achieve an assessment tool for buildings within the framework of the most important environmental effects of the building, such as energy, water, waste, transportation, the internal environment, and individual health, in order to ensure access to a more energy-efficient building, reduce negative environmental effects, and achieve comfort and well-being. The evaluation is carried out in the presence of a minimum required to achieve these requirements and standards in accordance with the applicable and available practices, and to grant certificates based on an evaluation approach based on environmental principles that guarantee the building's environmental application, confirm the building's commitment to it, and determine its classification(Wen, 2020). The environmental evaluation contributes to the establishment of the foundations and standards that define the interaction of the building with its surroundings, as well as to the creation of a spirit of competitiveness and interest in fulfilling the environmental dimension in buildings. It should be noted that in the environmental assessment curricula for buildings, the relationship of the building with the environment appeared in the form of separate environmental issues when assessed, with the exception of the CASBEE system, in which the assessment result is based on the environmental efficiency index as a final indicator of the assessment, which depends on two main factors: achieving quality and reducing the environmental load(Lee, 2013). Some issues have emerged in most systems, such as: energy, water, building materials, transportation, and the quality of the internal environment, with different weights depending on different interest in evaluation issues, it is possible for the building to obtain a high rating in some evaluation methods, it may not be the same in other evaluation methods, and there are some issues that are unique to the systems and not to others, and the evaluation references that. The building evaluation systems aim to achieve the best building performance, encourage the establishment of sustainable buildings, reduce the negative impacts of buildings on the environment, ensure the best environmental practice, support investment by stimulating demand for sustainable buildings within the framework of immunizing the environmental impact of age processes in terms of construction, operation, and maintenance, and achieving comfort and health. The evaluation method also escalates the work of a specific grading to classify the building in terms of its preference in dealing with the environment, creating a system for comparing buildings with each other to create a spirit of competition in their environmental performance and their own in line with their climate, heritage, and cultural value, and the tools for measuring sustainability have varied throughout the world. Some are on a worldwide scale and are used by more than one nation, while others are more local as shown in figure no (2):

LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design), for example, is one of the most well-known in the world, and it is adopted by the United States of America as well as 135 other nations, including Canada, India, and many Arab Gulf countries. in Britain, the United Kingdom, and other Arab Gulf nations utilize the BREEAM system (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method), whilst Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa use the STAR GREEN system. HQE (High Quality Environmental Standard), LEED CANADA (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design), LEED CANADA (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design), LEED CANADA (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design), LEED CAN (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design), Green Pyramid Rating System (GPRS), Green Star Rating System (Estidama), Green Building Index (GBI).

2.4 Environmental Sustainability Assessment Systems in the Gulf Cooperation Council Countries:

2.4.1 Mostadam: Building Evaluation Systems in KSA

The Saudi system of sustainable assessment, which was inaugurated in October 2019, is the system of sustainable evaluation(Housing, 2019). It is one of the most essential goal aspects of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia 2030 vision as shown in figure (3) (Energy, Water, and Health)(vision2030). It aims to provide a unique service that permits the accurate assessment of the building's sustainability. This is accomplished by adhering to stringent environmental regulations that increase the building's efficiency and improve the quality of life within it. It also reduces the damage caused by building materials and environmental pollutants. Among the system's most significant benefits are: (1) the best possible efficiency of water and energy



Figure (3). Relationship between Vision 2030 and Mostadam for Residential Buildings O+E (Housing, 2019a)

consumption. (2) the improvement of domestic life quality, (3) a high standard of house-waste recycling management, (4) the reinforcement of the sustainability culture as well as its application within society, (5) the best operational management of buildings and minimizing maintenance costs, and (6) combating environmental pollution both inside and outside the building. (Housing, 2019b) Formalized paraphrase Furthermore, the sustainability evaluation method is based on nine major categories used to assess the level of building compatibility, which are further subcategorized into two major subsections. They cover the levels of sustainability of location, energy, water, health and wellbeing, education, creativity, and operation), as well as transportation, rapport, area, district, culture, materials, and wastes. Nonetheless, it is a contemporary system in need of refinement. (Banani, 2016).

2.4.2 ESTIDAMA SYSTEM IN ABU DHABI, UAE

The grading system, designed particularly for the Emirate of Abu Dhabi's hot heat and dry environment, provides a set of standards and requirements for analyzing a project's prospective performance in regard to the four Estidama pillars as shown in figure (4): environmental, economic, cultural, and social. Version 1.0 of the Pearl Rating



Figure (4). The Four Pillars of Estidama(A. D. p. Council, December 2016)

System applies to all types of buildings, sites, and associated facilities. It contains a variety of standards for assessing structures (public, office, retail, apartment complexes, schools, mixed use), villas (single family homes), and communities (neighborhoods). There is also the Pearl Rating System for Urban Communities (PCR, Building Rating System). The Pearl Rating System (PBRS) and the Pearl Rating System for Villas are two types of rating systems (PVRS) (Abu Dhabi urban plannig council, April 2010; Abu Dhabi urban planning council, Nov. 25, 2018; Docplayer, 2010; Elgendy, April 17th, 2010; fidic, 2022; transport., 15 DECEMBER 2021; Yumpu, 2016)

2.4.3 QAQS assessment IN QATAR

The GSAS development process began in 2007 with an in-depth and careful study of existing building evaluation systems, tools, and guidelines, which exceeded 140 systems from around the world as a first stage, which was later reduced to the study of 40 total or comprehensive building evaluation systems as shown in figure (5) (SYSTEM, 2010). This was followed by a thorough examination of the best practices of six of the most prominent systems on a worldwide scale. The Global Sustainability Assessment System (GSAS) is the Middle East and North Africa's first system of its type, evaluating green construction and infrastructure projects using objective performance criteria(M. Salim Ferwati, 2019). The fundamental goal of the "GSAS" system is to establish a sustainable construction environment while taking into consideration the region's unique demands. The process of designing the "GSAS" system was based on integrated systematic research that included an evaluation of the best practices employed in mature systems in the field of sustainable building at the global and regional levels(Nuri Cihat Onat, 2019). The GSAS system was created from the ground up using a bottom-up approach to enable for a seamless integration process between local requirements and sustainable development goals. GSAS offers three types of certification programs to the construction industry: GSAS "Design and Build," which aims to assess the sustainability of newly constructed or completely renovated buildings, as well as urban plans and infrastructure, and the "GSAS" system certification for construction management, which is used to assess the negative environmental impact of the contractor's construction operations on the



Figure (5). Development process(SYSTEM, 2010)

project land(Prakash C. Phondani, 2016). The assessment method entails assessing all activities that occur on the project site in accordance with the eight GSAS axes, which are urban communication, location, energy, water, external environment, materials, economic and sociological aspects, and lastly management and operation, and the GSAS system certificate for operation, which is used to evaluate new or existing buildings for the purpose of verifying the efficiency of their performance in terms of their ability to save on energy and water consumption, as well as the quality of their internal environment, in addition to matters related to the treatment of waste generated during operation, and the certificate is certified by the GSAS Trust after the project conforms to the requirements of the targeted GSAS certificate ((GORD); Waked, October 30, 2021).

2.4.4 AL SA'FAT System Evaluation Dubai UAE

In 2010, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum established a set of standards and specifications for green buildings in Dubai, and in 2016, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum chose the moniker "Al Sa'fat" as a method for certifying green buildings in Dubai. The Dubai Municipality began updating the list of green construction criteria and specifications and elevated them to a categorization system. Green buildings are classified into multiple categories based on how well the standards in each category are met(Fatima Alhamlawi, 2021). The Al Sa'fat System - Dubai Green Building System has been adopted as an alternative to the list of requirements and standards for green buildings as of October 19, 2020. The methodology divides green buildings into three groups depending on the fulfillment of each category's standards(Awadh, 2018). The Silver Sa'fa standards are the obligatory minimum for all types of new structures in the Emirate of Dubai, and a series of extra requirements must be met in order to obtain the Golden or Platinum Palme. The silver Safa system is required for all structures in the emirate, whereas the bronze Safa system is required for private villas and industrial buildings, and it is optional in the golden Safa system, as it is in the platinum system(Ahmed, 2019; Municipality, 2021, October 2020; Newspaper, July 13, 2016; Sebaei, August 27, 2020).

3.Materials and Methods

This study provides an overview of the policies, various planning methods, and assessment methods available to estimate energy efficiency and sustainability in buildings as a spatial determinant in the GCC countries, allowing the use of different tools to investigate the building energy performance of existing buildings and new building designs, as well as critical evaluation of the results presented by systems of various classification. The focus of this research is on the study of sustainability assessment systems in Gulf Cooperation Council countries that

have experience with the aforementioned systems, where these systems will be reviewed and analyzed, and the strengths and weaknesses of each will be determined and then compared through nine points and then reached. An endeavor to create a unified Gulf system for assessing sustainability by comparing them as a result of their participation in a set of common climatic and environmental conditions in the Arab region, as well as their historical partnership. Based on a comparison, the following criteria are used (Mattoni, 2018; Shan, 2018):

• The fundamentals (Starting work - developer - geographical scope - obligatory bezel -Benefits of the System- Objectives of the System)

- The primary assessment categories
- Building types included in the system
- Validity of Classification Time
- Grades of classification, characteristics, development, and resident buildings
- Rewards and incentives for classification
- Fees and expenses associated with the evaluation procedure
- Stages and a system for evaluation
- Form of evaluation

		Mostadam(building, 2020)	ESTIDAMA(Government, 2022)	QAQS((GORD); SYSTEM, 2010)	AL SA'FAT(Municipality, 2021)
		البناء المستدام Susteinable Building	استدامة estidamă	ESAS	
	Starting work	October 2019	began in 2008 The mandatory implementation began in 2010.	The GSAS development process began in 2007.	Work began in 2020.
e fundamentals	Developer	The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia 2030 Vision (energy, water, and human health) 2030 Sustainable Construction Program	The Abu Dhabi Urban Planning Council, as a significant component of the Abu Dhabi Plan 2030, Al Ain Plan 2030, and Al Dhafra 2030 Plans, strives to create Abu Dhabi and the whole Abu Dhabi Emirate in accordance with innovative green standards (Government, 2022).		Municipality of Dubai
Th	Geographica I scope	Local, inside the kingdom	Abu Dhabi, Al Ain, Al Dhafra, The United Arab Emirates	Local, inside Qatar	Municipality of Dubai
	obligatory bezel	not legally binding	All contemporary structures must have at least one pearl, while government buildings, schools, and mosques must have two pearls.		The list of standards and specifications for green buildings in Dubai was published in 2010, and it was initially necessary only for new government buildings, but it was subsequently amended to include all new structures.

4. Results and discussion

			r	
Benefits of the System	 Improving energy and water usage efficiency. An increase in the level of internal living quality. Improving home garbage recycling management. Strengthening the sustainable culture and its implementation in society. Enhance building operation management while lowering maintenance expenditures. Reducing pollutants both inside and outside the building. 	 Reducing natural resource consumption and waste Reducing negative environmental effects Improving quality of life Rationalizing energy and water consumption Enhancing the prestige and marketing value of buildings Optimizing supply chains for sustainable and recycled materials and products 	 Intuitive integration of sustainable methods and regional needs Combines the best features of the world's most established sustainability rating systems A measurable and results-oriented approach rather than a feature-oriented approach Individual components are adaptable to any project of any size without jeopardizing the system's integrity Allows full control over the rating system's development, customization, deployment, future modifications, or expansion based on any set of specified requirements 	• The Safat system improves building occupant safety while also ensuring a more sustainable environment for future generations. It also promotes innovation in order to accomplish integration of green systems and technologies in building design, which enhances performance, rationalizes energy use, boosts the efficiency of electrical and mechanical systems, and so decreases carbon emissions.
Objectives of the System	Providing a service that permits assessing the sustainability of a building by adhering to environmental criteria that increase the building's efficiency, enhance the quality of life within the structure, and limit the harm caused by construction waste and environmental materials.	Creating more sustainable global communities, cities, and institutions, as well as balancing the Estidama Program's four pillars: 2. Environmental 3. Economic 4. Cultural 5. Society It promotes the decrease of: • Reducing water use • Reduce energy use • Reduce the use of waste • Reducing the use of materials	It aims to create a sustainable construction environment while taking into account the unique demands of the location.	Saving electricity by 20%, cutting water use by 15%, reducing trash by 50%, and lowering carbon dioxide emissions by 20%,

The primary assessment categories	To analyze a sustainability, sustainable approach is base major categories in figure (6): 1. Location Sus (9%) 2. Transportation connectivity (7%) 3. Region and (optional) (7%) 4. Energy (27%) 5. water (27%) 6. health and comt 7. Materials and (optional) (4%) 8. Education and i (4%) 9. Operating (4%)	building's a evaluation d on nine as shown tainability and (optional) culture fort (14%) d waste nnovation	Estidama co environmental assessment as building site sel construction, maintenance. divided into se environmental addressing an improves or has to improve environmental For acts that in- building sa evaluation points are assi credit.	onducts an impact a result of ection, design, and Points are even areas of effect, each action that s the potential a building's performance. dicate that the tisfied the requirements, gned to each	 manageme operation cultural economic Water Energy Location urban conr Materials indoor em (optional) 	nt and and value nectivity vironment	 Energy Efficience Design and environment Resource and waste m Vitality of and human c Efficient wat There are two comply w regulation's requirements: the techn achieving which is the used, and the gaining pe which is method. The techn meeting sta which build all of the energy specified legislation. The way of performance, is specific approach is em structures tha correspond efficiency of water supply. of comparing consumption building to tt consumption reference build and pattern of judged comply yearly consut less than or ec consumption 	iency i building efficiency anagement buildings omfort ter use o ways to ith the different ique of standards, major way method of rformance, the other nique of mdards in lings meet rgy criteria in the attaining n which a calculating uployed for t do not to the the given It is a way the yearly of the he annual of a Iding that te criteria e rule, such ce building le building ure. The diang to the o f the ingul to the o f the ingul to the of the ingul to the ingul to the of the ingul to the of the ingul to the of the ingul to the ingul
	Building assessment categories	Weight	PBRS	Weight	Building assessment categories	Weight	Building assessment categories	Weight
	location Sustainability	(9%)	Integrated Development Process (IDP)	(13)	manageme nt and operation	(13%)	Energy Efficiency	It is determin ed by the
	Transportation and connectivity (optional)	(7%)	Natural Systems (NS)	(12)	cultural and economic value	(4%)	Design and building environment	way of adhering to the numerou

	Region and culture (optional)	(7%)	Livable Building (LV)	(36)	Water	(22%)	Resource efficiency and waste management	s standards in the regulatio
	Energy	(27%)	Water (PW).	(43)	Energy	(17%)	Vitality of buildings and human comfort	n, which is either the method
	water	(24%)	Multiple Energy Sources (RE).	(44)	Location	(28%)	Efficient water use	of attaining standards
	health and comfort	(14%)	Building Materials (SM).	(28)	urban connectivit y	(8%)	Innovation (the innovation	or the method of
	Materials and waste (optional)	(4%)	Innovative		Materials	(8%)	component is not calculated	attaining performa nce.
	Education and innovation Operating	(4%)	Practices (IP) (optional)	(3)	indoor environme nt	(19%)	from the total weights)	
	TOTAL	(470)		176	(optional)	1000/		
Building types included in the system	 Residential uni design and corphase Existing housin Complexes neighborhoods design and corphase Existing complexes neighborhoods Commercial but the design construction ph prefab corbuildings 	100% its in the sstruction g units and in the sstruction lexes and ildings in and ase mmercial	Villa PVRS's System include figure (8) (tr DECEMBER 2 • Small Buildir • Housing units Independent I • Three story b Rating level • PVRS for development single pearl. • PVRS for Subsidized V two pearls. Pearl Rating Sy for includes(transj DECEMBER 2 • Buildings suc hospitals, lab: • Offices, cc universities • Bobys, resta and banks • Residential m • School, mosq • Mixed-use bu • one or moc having a tota than 75,000 s Rating level • Buildings b Wahda - P buildings b Wahda - P buildings for buildings for buildings for buildings for buildings for buildings for buildings for buildings an commercial s The Pearl R (PCRS) for community includes(transj DECEMBER 2 • Road and side Every amene community • PBRS for complexes - for complexes • PBRS for complexes - for complexes • PBRS for communities 75,000 square Rating level	170 points Pearl Rating es as shown in ansport., 15 2021c) ggs s Building uilding private or villas is a Government illas is one of ystem (PBRS) Buildings port., 15 2021a) h as factories, s, and hotels blleges, and uurants, cafes ulti-unit ues and clubs ididings ore structures al size of less quare meters y Pearl and BRS for all s for buildings: government d PBRS for the urban port., 15 021b) ewalk network wity in the blic services of more than meters in size all forms of a single pearls Government t Tow Pearls tites <th>There are sections to system: • Commerc buildings. • Administr buildings. • Residentia buildings • Railways • Health bu • Sports bui • Gardens</th> <th>100% numerous the GSAS ial ative al il ildings Idings</th> <th>Public Bui shown in figu 1 t inclu following buildings: Banks and 1 Cinemas, T Malls (shopping c shopping Retail Outle Governmer Buildings. Mosques a Houses Culture and Education 1 Exhibitions Festival Ce Health ca sports clu Healthcare Sports Con Museums, and Heritag Sports and 1 Centers - Entertainm.</th> <th>Idings as re (11): ides the types of Post offices (commercial enters) and outlets – malls and ets ital nd Worship Education - racilities and inters enters and ibs and - Facilities, Facilities, Recreational Sports and ents Centers ons</th>	There are sections to system: • Commerc buildings. • Administr buildings. • Residentia buildings • Railways • Health bu • Sports bui • Gardens	100% numerous the GSAS ial ative al il ildings Idings	Public Bui shown in figu 1 t inclu following buildings: Banks and 1 Cinemas, T Malls (shopping c shopping Retail Outle Governmer Buildings. Mosques a Houses Culture and Education 1 Exhibitions Festival Ce Health ca sports clu Healthcare Sports Con Museums, and Heritag Sports and 1 Centers - Entertainm.	Idings as re (11): ides the types of Post offices (commercial enters) and outlets – malls and ets ital nd Worship Education - racilities and inters enters and ibs and - Facilities, Facilities, Recreational Sports and ents Centers ons

	The newly developed sustainable system is based	Certificate validity period Certificate of construction	 All projects wishing to receive "GSAS" 	The Sa'fat certificate has a three-year validity
	on granting the building a	for two years	accreditation for	period, and all buildings
	sustainable appraisal	• The rating certificate is	design and	that have obtained the
	certificate in accordance	valid for the whole life of	construction must	Sa'fat certificate are re-
	with a clear system, as the	the structure.	designate a "GSAS"	evaluated for the purpose
	building owner, upon		service provider	of renewal after the
	registration of the building	Evaluation of design	who meets the	expiry of this period.
	wishing to obtain a	The design approval is	following criteria.	based on an official
	sustainable appraisal	granted following completion	- GSAS design and	request submitted by the
	certificate through the	of the design or master	construction	building owner or his
	sustainable construction	planning and represents	service provider	legal representative via
	platform the building is	acknowledgement of the	license	the Sa'fat site
	registered, and the	sustainable standards	- A green design	
	engineering offices	followed throughout the	and construction	
	approved by the platform	design phase. It is valid until	expert who has	
	are presented to the owner	the commencement of	been accredited by	
	for appropriate selection	construction work, after	the "GSAS"	
	from the engineering	which the construction	system.	
	offices. This, in turn,	assessment processes are	- For energy	
	appoints a specialized	commenced.	evaluation, a	
	engineer in the so-called		"GSAS"	
	MOSTDAM AP to	Evaluation of construction	certificate is	
	supervise the plans and	Given upon completion and	required.	
Je	follow up on the demand in	verification that the project's	Stage of	
in	the sustainable building	construction activities met the	authentication:	
E	platform, whether for new	design objectives and	• The GSAS design	
101	or existing buildings, from	included the measures	and construction	
ati	the design and construction	specified in the design	system accreditation	
lic	stage, and once the	evaluation stage. The pearl	examines the long-	
.is	building obtains the	evaluation for the	term viability of	
las	certificate, it is considered	construction stage is valid for	newly constructed	
0	an unexpired evaluation	two years, after which the	or completely	
of	certificate.	project moves on to the	renovated buildings,	
ty		operational evaluation stage.	as well as urban	
idi			architecture and	
al		operational assessment	infrastructure.	
\geq		This stage is unique to the	• There are two steps	
		pearl rating system, in which	to the design and	
		the pearl assessment of the	construction	
		operational stage is carried	certification	
		out to check the project's	process:	
		operational performance in	- At the completion	
		design has accounting the	of the design	
		intended objectives that will	stage, obtain a	
		he used in the future	and construction	
		be used in the future.	and construction	
			form of a latter of	
			conformity	
			$(I \cap C)$	
			- Phase Two	
			- I hase I wo.	
			building phase	
			the CDA Design	
			Conformity	
			Check is	
			nerformed	
			If the first and second	
			stages are completed	
			successfully the	
			project will be eligible	

			C 1 C 1 CCAC"	
			for the final "GSAS"	
			certificate for design	
			and construction, as	
			well as the design and	
			build shield.	
			• The categorization	
			time is good for one	
			year, and you must	
			pay the certificate	
			charges to renew.	
			• The categorization	
			has a general	
			validity period, and	
			if the client desires	
			to renew, a price is	
			paid for the	
			certificate.	
	The assessment method is	Rating scores are separated	the rating degrees are	"Bronze, Silver, Golden,
	sustainable since it is based	into five categories, as is the	separated into six stars	and Platinum" are the
S.	on five categorization	Estidama rating system's area	as shown in figure (9):	four categories of the
tic	levels, which indicate the	of work:		Sa'fa. All owners,
ris lin	number of points required	• Residences (residential for		investors, and developers
ild	to be eligible for one of the	one family)		must apply the Palme
ac bu	five levels of certifications.	• Structures (public, office,		Bronze criteria, and they
ar It	The project score is the	retail, and residential		will be urged to apply
ch	total of the criterion points	buildings, schools, mixed		additional criteria and put
1, o sid	earned. There are five	uses)		them into effect in order
ioi	levels, beginning with	• Urban enclaves		to attain further advanced
at d 1	green, which indicates the	(neighborhoods)		system classes noting
fic an	lowest score of 20 degrees	(intrigine critice us)		that these requirements
ŝsi t, :	or more, and progressing to			are mentioned below.
las en	diamond, which may be			Carbon reduction, energy
f c m	attained from 80 degrees			savings healthy indoor
jo do	up to 100 degrees, the			environment needs, smart
les el	highest score as shown in			applications innovation
ad lev	table (1).			requirements, and an
J. p	(*)*			improvement in building
Ŭ				lifespan are all achieved
				in the many areas listed
				in the many areas listed.

1				
	One of the benefits of the sustainable assessment	• Because the system is	GSAS The Global Sustainability	The "Al Sa'fat" document
	system is that the building	mandatory for all modern	Assessment Method is	evaluations in Dubai It
	con receive on	buildings there are no	an integrated system	includes the Golden
	accreditation certificate	financial incentives	for assessing	Palm Silver Palm
	after achieving the	provided by the state but	sustainability, whether	Bronze Palm, and
	required standards from	the effect of this system	at the level of	Platinum Palm which are
	each of the six main axes.	benefits the user by	buildings of all types	awards given by Dubai
	in which there are a	lowering the cost of energy	or infrastructure and	Municipality to Green
	number of requirements,	by using renewable energy	urban planning. It also	Buildings after they have
	some of which are basic	and the cost of water bills	comprises all stages of	been evaluated to ensure
	and some of which are	by using reused water,	real estate project	that they preserve natural
	optional to achieve a	achieving and efficiency of	development,	resources and the
	higher classification	the building, raising the	beginning with design	environment and ensure a
	degree, and there are three	market value of the	and finishing with	healthy environment in
	optional axes for those	building, selling units at	operation. It is also	accordance with the
	wishing to further improve	higher prices than their	distinguishable from	highest international
	the performance of the	counterparts, and raising the	the other international	standards. And, due to
	building, according to a	efficiency of the building.	systems by the	Dubai's competitive
	report.	The overall aesthetic value	existence of evidence	leadership and the
	There are no financial	of the structure, both inside	for the evaluation of	creation of investment
u	incentives from the	and externally, by	facilities established	more that has and new
tio	several indirect benefits in	of visible areas natural	by "GSAS" such as	national economy it is
ca	the system in terms of	lighting proportions and	the evaluation system	expected that the Green
ifi	lowering the cost of	nsychological comfort	for open air-	Building Evaluation
ass	electricity and water bills,	poy enclogical connera	conditioned stadiums,	Regulation "Al Sa'fat"
cl	and one of the internal	Incentives in general	railway stations, and	will contribute to saving
or	benefits of the system is a	When the four sustainability	mosques. The GSAS	34% of energy and
ss f	sustainable evaluation that	goals are accomplished, there	system has the	reducing carbon dioxide
ive	the building can obtain a	are several benefits for	following	emissions to about seven
nt	minimum score of 20 to	everyone, the most important	components:	million tons within five
lce	obtain the accreditation	of which are:	- Design Principles	years, which is equivalent
l in	the required stendards	• Increased returns on Pearl	- Benchmarking	to planting 36 million
pu	from each of the six axes	investments	nerformance	trees in the city.
s a	The main which has a	• Lower your operating and	- A governance	
rd	number of requirements.	maintenance costs	system that is	
va	some of which are basic	• Improving life quality and	automated and	
ter	and some of which are	increasing productivity	based on objective	
н	optional to achieve a	• Increase rental returns by	criteria that are in	
	higher classification	improving tenant retention.	compliance with	
	degree, and there are three	• lowering the demand for	the most recent	
	optional axes for those	and use of resources such as	international	
	wishing to further improve	electricity and water	technological	
	the performance of the	• Protecting and	specifications.	
	building and according to	strengthening the	The potential to save	
	an approved sustainable	vulnerable environment, as	40% of electrical	
	methodology and obtain	well as restoring its vigor	energy usage, 30% of	
	the system's highest	• To safeguard human health,	iresh water	
	certificate.	we must reduce pollution of	70 percent of total	
		• Reduced groenhouse gos	nublic garbage	
		- Reduced greenhouse gas	through recveling.	
		combat climate change	Building base points	
		• Reviving Abu Dhabi's	are granted in seven	
		heritage of attaining	categories, and	
		maximum results with less	additional points are	
		resources	awarded in the form of	
		• Maintaining Abu Dhabi's	percentages. Points are	
		distinct identity and cultural	used to clear basic	
		heritage	objects.	

		 Creating cohesive and connected communities with services Promoting long-term viability at all levels Raising awareness and fostering long-term growth, livelihood, and quality of life 		
Fees and expenses associated with the evaluation procedure	The property owner selects one of the engineering firms approved by the service to design the house using an electronic platform. Following the agreement, the fees of 2,800 Saudi riyals are paid through his account on the electronic platform. The engineering office will next upload the files to the computerized platform for examination and approval by an assessor as shown in figure (7).	Because the system is mandatory for all contemporary facilities, whether villas, manifolds, or new metropolitan complexes, there are no material costs given by the owner. There are, however, expenses and fees for the alternative and the emirate to extract licenses that are unrelated to the evaluation system.	The fees and expenditures associated with the review process and getting a GSAS D&B certificate vary depending on the project, as stated in the table as shown in figure (10).	Dubai Municipality has developed a green construction website that includes information on the "Safat" system, a particular area on electronic training, and a list of green and sustainable materials vendors in the emirate. It also created the smart application (Green Buildings), which provides a detailed explanation of the laws in the list of conditions and specifications for green buildings in a simple and enjoyable language, as well as a service for calculating the economic cost of selecting sustainable applications during the building's operation.

	The assessment process is	The application's	The procedure of the	
	carried out in three steps in	submission	phases of the	
	a sustainable system:	• The project is registered	assessment	
	• Stage of design (after	with the relevant	registering the project	
	engineering office on the	Estidama website	in GSAS GATE via	
	platform and through a	• Preliminary drawings and	the website Pay the	
	certified sustainable	detailed drawings are used	registration fee on-site	
	engineer)	to evaluate the design in two	and then activate the	
	Phase 2 - Construction	stages.	project on the site. In	
	• Phase of operation	• Construction evaluation is	the first stage, ensure	
	(optional after at least	divided into two stages: pre-	that the project	
	one year of operating the	construction and post-	complies with the new	
	building, equivalent to	construction.	requirements, and then	
	75 percent).	• A step that will be used in	verify for design	
		the future is operational	compliance.	
		evaluation.	The project has been	
			submitted for the	
		Stages of accreditation,	second round of	
		application submission, and	evaluation and	
		exemptions	auditing.	
		Submission of the	stage involves	
L		application	verification awarding	
ioi		• When you register the	the project the degree	
lat		project on the Estidama	it merits, and receiving	
alu		website, you will be given a	the certificate.	
ev:		project number.	If the project fails to	
or or		• Appointing a certified	meet the requirements,	
ı fe		specialist to assist with the	the applicant has the	
en		categorization process and	option to submit an	
/st		application	appeal to have the	
s.		• A workshop to promote	project reviewed,	
d a		integrated growth and the	request the appeal, pay	
and		advancement of all	the fee of the appeal,	
S		credentials.	and their resublint the	
ıge		• Examine and revise the	resumed criteria In	
Sta		processes	the event of	
		processes.	conformance, the	
		Evaluation of design	project is examined	
		• As part of the development	and authorized.	
		project design review		
		submission, a certified		
		expert will offer complete		
		information.		
		• Throughout the design		
		process, the Professional		
		will evaluate and update		
		basis		
		• Estidama Members may		
		request clarification or		
		more information from a		
		certified professional		
		during the review process.		
		• The design review is		
		completed and the credits		
		earned by the development		
		are granted.		

Evaluation of construction	
The competent professional	
• The competent professional	
assesses and updates the	
data after reviewing the	
building job. The	
construction audits are	
carried out by the pearl	
appraiser.	
 Final submissions are made 	
after construction is done	
but before the project is	
delivered.	
• The pearl appraiser will	
analyze the application and	
may seek explanations or	
more information from the	
Structural Building Quality	
Program.	
• Achieving the	
establishment evaluation	
and it is rewarded based on	
the development's balances	
the development's bulances.	
Employment Assessment	
• Applications for an	
operational pearl rating can	
be made two years after	
construction is completed.	
The procedure for getting	
an operational rating for	
pearl grades is described in	
the separate Operational	
Rating Handbook (currently	
under development).	



Figure (6). Mostadam for Residential Buildings O+E categories(Housing, 2019a)

Table (3). Mostadam rating levels(Housing, 2019a)

Number of Points Achieved	Rating Level
≥ 20	
	Green
≥ 35	e
	Bronze
≥ 50	
	Silver
≥ 65	
	Gold
≥ 80	
	Diamond



Figure (7). Submission process for Mostadam(Housing, 2019a)



Figure (8). Links between the Pearl Rating Systems(Abu Dhabi urban planning council, Nov. 25, 2018)



Figure (9). GSAS rating degrees are divided into six stars(SYSTEM, 2010).

LICENSES FEES I. GSAS Service Providers		
CERTIFICATION	SCHEME	FEES (QR) PER (1) YEAR
GSAS Design & Build	Building Typologies	5,000
	Districts	10,000
	Energy Centers	3,000
	Healthcare	5,000
	Railways	5,000
	Sports	5,000
GSAS Construction Management		10,000
GSAS Operations		5,000

Figure (10). Fees and expenses related to the review process and obtaining a GSAS D&B certificate(SYSTEM, 2010)



Figure (11). Building types included in the Al Sa'fat system(Municipality, 2021)

4.Conclusions

Based on the evaluation of each system and the comparison criteria established by the research, the following key findings about assessment systems in Gulf Cooperation Council nations were reached:

- The systems in general are new, with their usage beginning in the second decade of the millennium; some are optional, while others are mandatory.
- Even though their ratios differed from system to system, the water and energy components appeared to be the most relevant main assessment categories in the systems overall.
- Some systems dealt with different types of

buildings and created their own assessment system for each category or type of building, rather than a general system that is comprehensive for all buildings, and so the evaluation categories changed in the systems based on the type of buildings.

- Depending on the kind of system, the validity of construction certificates ranged from open for life to renewed specified time.
- The systems agreed that there are degrees of classification with varied distributions depending on the system and the term.
- In general, the incentives procedures offered to buildings with assessment certificates were insufficient in all systems and must be

improved.

- Fees for assessments vary depending on the system, with some being free and others being charged depending on the system and the kind of structure or its location.
- The evaluation phases and mechanisms differ depending on the system. There are systems in which the assessment process begins with the design stage and progresses through the operating stage, which may be voluntary, such as the Saudi sustainable system, and some systems continue to the post-operational stage.
- The assessment forms range from one system to the next based on the evaluation categories and the points system for each category.
- It is possible to create a unified system that brings together the Gulf Cooperation Council countries if we rely on the common points and common elements in the evaluation categories, which revealed that the water and energy components are among the most important elements on which the evaluations are made, and there are some other complementary elements that can be agreed upon on the extent of their importance and relative weight, such as sites. Transportation, intervention, management, and operation are all aspects of the business.

5. The foundations of the Pan-Gulf Assessment System:

Could be summarized in the following points:

6.1 Concerning utilized water conservation:

Because of the scarcity of water in the Arab Gulf region, PW is seen as one of the most critical evaluation factors, and so plays a significant role in assessment categories such as the Estidama system. There is a total of (43). As a result, because it is one of the most essential requirements in the Arabian Gulf region, the water performance clauses in indoor and outdoor locations must be fully covered in the lowest categories for receiving the certificate.

6.2 Regarding the materials used:

One of the most important aspects of systems is the use of local and available materials in the surrounding environment, as well as their preservation without expiration and benefiting from them in the future for future generations, with the addition of an item on whether or not to recycle the building components as an additional degree in the evaluation because it has a significant impact on the sustainability of materials after the building's demolition or expiration. Its life span increases with an increase in the percentage of the item (materials) for the importance of materials in achieving sustainability, and safety aspects of fire systems, sound insulation, ease of cleaning the building's sustainability should not be overlooked.

6.3 In terms of energy and transportation systems:

For a system to be suitable for the Arabian Gulf region, with its hot desert climate, and therefore (many energy sources). RE) is one of the most important criteria that have been focused on by various systems, such as the Estidama assessment system and other evaluation systems, in which the global trend today is to reduce reliance on fossil fuels and rely on alternative energy systems to conserve the country's resources, which affects construction operations and internal transportation, for example, and thus importance should be given to transportation standards in obtaining the lowest certificate due to the nature of the atmosphere and the large distances in countries such as Saudi Arabia that require a large public transportation system.

In terms of stimuli:

There is a need for more tangible rewards, in the form of money or incentives for projects that have been evaluated for creativity and innovation, which encourages more endeavors to achieve creativity and sustainability.

6.Recommendations

The study validated the theoretical hypothesis of a unified assessment system for sustainability in Gulf Cooperation Council countries, which is combined by backgrounds, rules, environmental systems, climate, and one geographical area, even if its urban scope differed and varied according to the specific nature of each region. Possible, and the study resulted in the following recommendations:

• In general, evaluation systems should be updated on a regular basis, and new versions should be issued based on local studies and new

studies, making the regulations mandatory for all modern buildings, eliminating the costs of obtaining certification, merging the system with municipalities, and giving government-supported buildings a higher evaluation than individuals. Throughout all three stages of the electronic evaluation mechanism's operation, including design, construction, and operation to enable transactions and achieve accreditation. as well as an electronic program that automatically conducts calculations for each item in the assessment. As a result, we push for making the final report easier to present in other assessment systems, while also working to educate the community about the importance of sustainability assessment systems and stressing their environmental advantages.

- Studying the various architectural design elements and allocating special elements to each of the areas in order to achieve the negative design in the building so that the design has an evaluation through directing the building and using architectural elements that achieve sustainability such as solar breakers and others in addition to the architectural character of each area so that if the architectural character of each area is achieved Additional degrees are offered to the structure, which also aids in preventing visual pollution and incorrect interpretations of the façade outside the style of the region, taking into account the cold portions and the difference in assessment degrees rates from the hot area.
- Working on the creation of a sustainable organization that connects all sustainability systems with Gulf states in order to debate the most important issues, offer seminars and lectures, and share system-wide methodological ideas.
- Evaluation of new degrees for the innovation criterion, which is critical in the development and improvement of the system.

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Not applicable.

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ملخص البحث. مع نمو مفهوم العمارة المستدامة لتحقيق أهداف التنمية الاقتصادية والبيئية والاجتماعية تبنت العديد من الهيئات الحكومية والمنظرات الدولية معايير بناء صديقة للبيئة لتحقيق تصميم مستدام، وعلى الرغم من التعاون المستمر بين دول مجلس التعاون الخليجي، ورغم وجود شبه توافق بين الظروف المناخية والبيئية بينها واعتهادها الكبير على المنتجات النفطية، ومع تطلعات هذه الدول لعمليات الوحدة الشاملة في كافة المجالات حسب ميثاق مجلس التعاون الخليجي، إلا أن هناك فجوة كبيرة يطرحها البحث تتمثل في تعدد نظم تقييم الاستدامة المستخدمة في تلك الدول، ويهدف البحث إلى دراسة أنظمة تقييم الاستدامة في دول مجلس التعاون الخليجي والتي بدأت العمل على تنفيذ مثل هذه الأنظمة، وذلك من خلال دراسة تحليلية مقارنة لأنظمة الاستدامة في كل من المملكة العربية السعودية - نظام مستدام، دولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة - نظام استدامة، ونظام إمارة دبي - الإمارات العربية المتحدة - نظام السعفات، ودولة قطر - نظام جي ساس وذلك من خلال تحليل هذه الأنظمة وتقييم نقاط القوة والضعف لكل منها في الوصول لنظام موحد لتحقيق التعاون المشترك بين دول مجلس التعاون الخليجي في مجال نظم الاستدامة وتقييمها ، حيث خرج البحث ببعض التوصيات أهمها أن نظم تقييم الاستدامة في دول مجلس التعاون الخليجي في حاجه الى التحديث المستمر كما تحتاج الى إضافة عناصر أخرى الى عمليات التقييم.

الكلمات المفتاحية: مقاييس تقييم الاستدامة، دول مجلس التعاون الخليجي، مستدام، استدامة، جي ساس، السعفات، نظم التقييم.