Challenges in TCFD/ISSB:

Reporting for Real Estate Investments

By Anna Shpak





Context



Regulators demand for climate & sustainability transparency (FINMA, EU, IFRS)

Investors push for comparable, decision-useful disclosures

6

~40%

Real estate = ~40% of global carbon emissions

(buildings, energy use, construction)

9

1.3 T

CHF 1.3 trillion real estate exposure in Swiss market

(pension funds, banks, insurance)



What is TCFD / ISSB





TCFD: Climate risk disclosure (Governance, Strategy, Risk Management, Metrics & Targets)



ISSB (IFRS S1 & S2):
Consolidated global baseline,
building on TCFD, SASB, CDSB,
etc.



Now mandatory in some jurisdictions; Swiss adoption accelerating

Why reporting matters for Real Estate

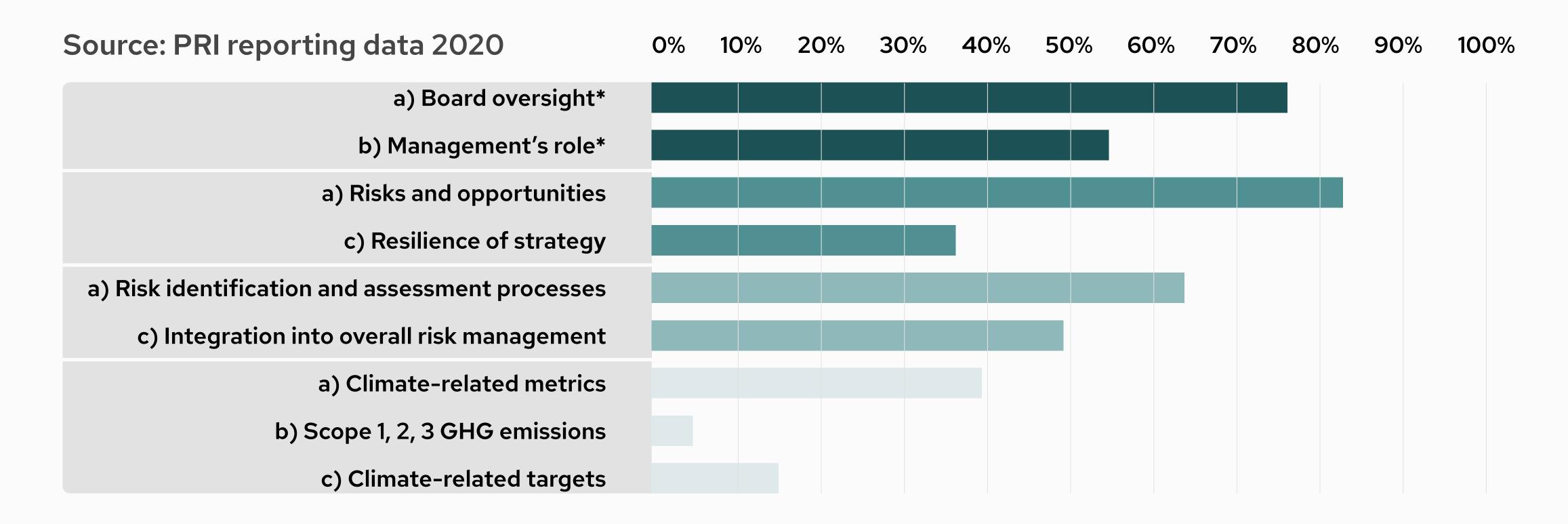


- Real estate portfolios exposed to:
 - Physical risks → flooding, heat stress, energy efficiency
 - Transition risks → carbon taxes, retrofitting requirements, stranded assets
- Investor expectations: green bonds, SFDR, CSRD alignment
- Reporting = access to capital + reputational license to operate



Percentage of real assets investors reporting against the TCFD recommendations.



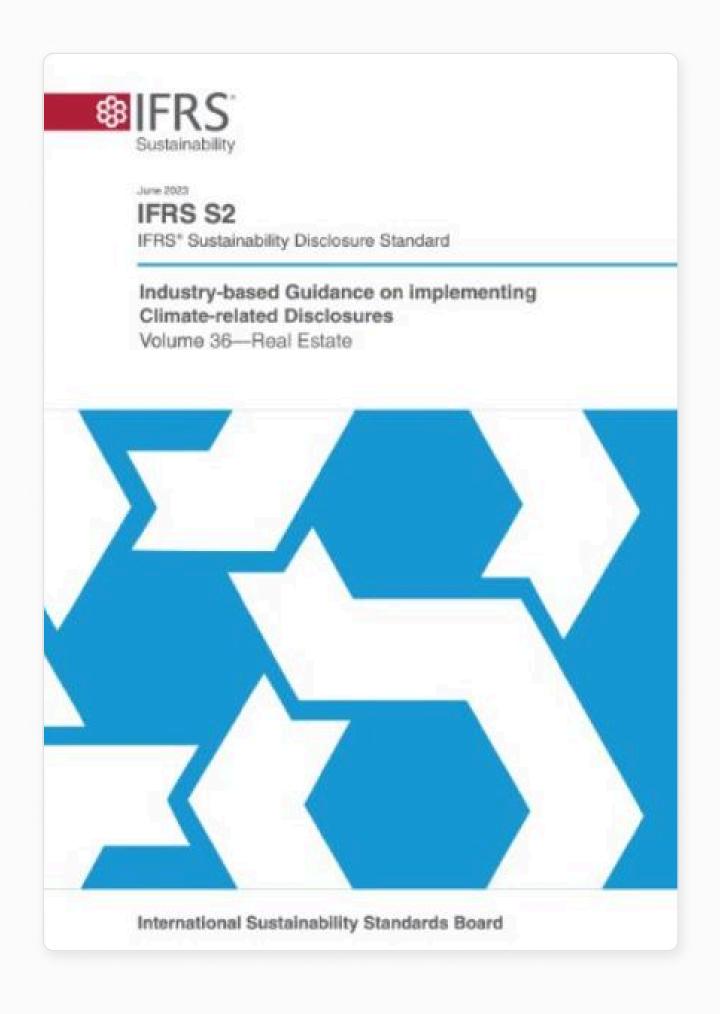


^{*}Respondents are PRI signatories with more than 50% of firm assets invested in real estate, infrastructure, forestry or farmland

ISSB S2, Real Estate guidance

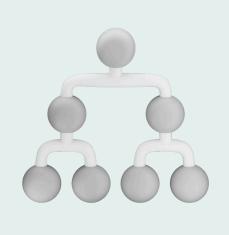


- Sustainability Disclosure Topics & Metrics:
 - Energy Management
 - Water Management
 - Management of Tenant Sustainability Impacts
 - Climate Change Adaptation
- Activity Metrics:
 - Number of assets, by property sector
 - Leasable floor area, by property sector
 - Percentage of indirectly managed assets, by property sector
 - Average occupancy rate, by property sector



Key challenges 1: Data Availability





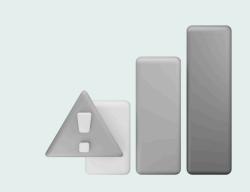
Fragmented building-level data (energy, water, materials)



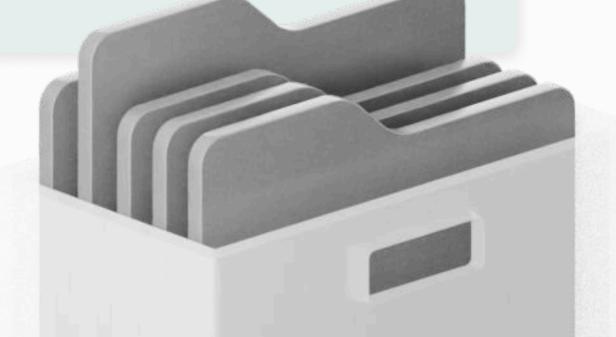
Inconsistent measurement methods (carbon factors, energy sources)



Many assets managed by third parties (data gaps)



Costly retrofitting of legacy data systems



Key challenges 2: Metrics & Methodologies





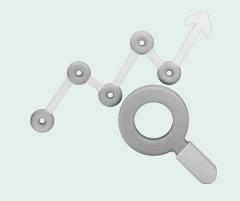
Scope 1–3 emissions complex in real estate (tenants vs owners)



Energy Performance
Certificates (EPCs) not
harmonised across cantons



Physical risk modelling requires climate scenarios (Swiss-specific data still limited)



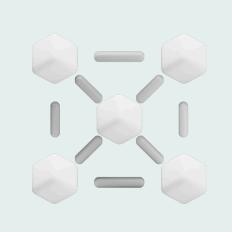
ISSB requires forwardlooking disclosures, but methodologies are evolving

Key challenges 3: Comparability





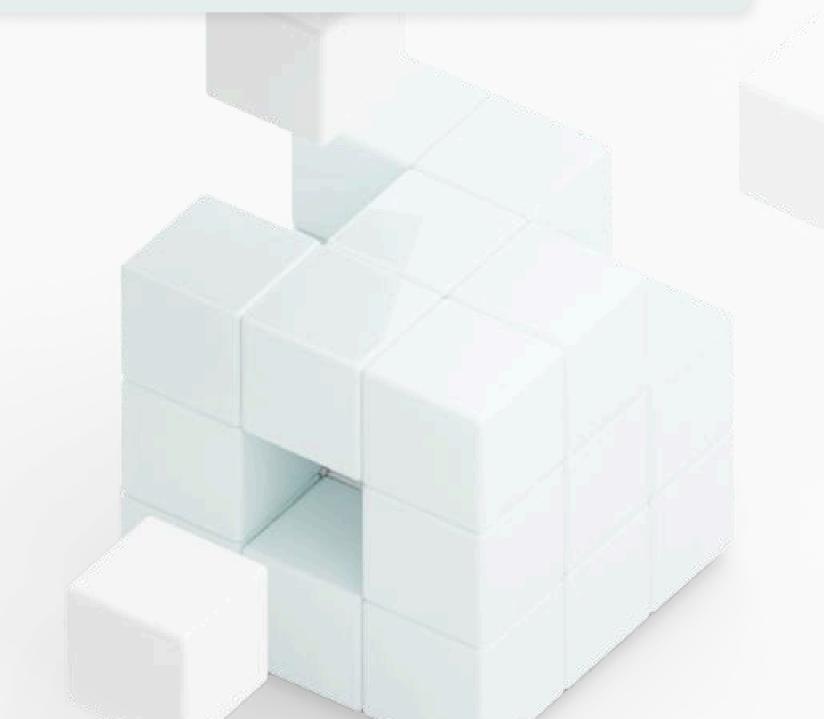
Lack of standardised KPIs across funds / managers



Benchmarking difficult (GRESB, MSCI, INREV all use different metrics)



Investors struggle to compare "green claims" (risk of greenwashing accusations)

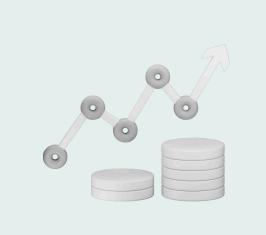


Key challenges 4: Integration with Financials





ISSB requires link to financial statements (valuation impact, impairments)



Many managers lack internal capability to translate physical risks (financial metrics)



Auditability, external assurance becoming expected



Opportunities (Not Only Challenges)



- 1 Digitalisation of building data (smart meters, Al analytics)
- (2) Integration with Swiss Energy Strategy 2050 targets
- (3) ISSB provides harmonisation, reduces reporting fatigue

4 Access to sustainable finance (green mortgages, transition bonds)



Path Forward



- 1) Build centralised ESG data infrastructure
- Collaborate across ecosystem: banks, insurers, asset managers, property managers
- (3) Invest in scenario analysis capabilities
- (4) Capacity building: training boards & investment teams
- Move from compliance → value creation



Conclusion







Real estate = high impact, high exposure

(cannot ignore ISSB/TCFD)





Challenges: data, metrics, comparability, financial integration, regulation





"What gets measured gets managed – and what gets reported builds trust."



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