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**Citation:** Maleki, B., del Mar Casanovas-Rubio, M., de la Fuente Antequera, A. & Tsavdaridis, K. D. (2023). An Assessment of Sustainability for Residential Skyscrapers in Accordance with a Multicriteria Decision-Making Method: Nine Dubai Case Studies. *Journal of Architectural Engineering*, 29(4), 04023038. doi: 10.1061/jaeied.aeeng-1559

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# 1 Sustainability Assessment of Residential Skyscrapers Based on 2 Multi-criteria Decision-making Method: 9 Dubai Case Studies

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4 Antequera <sup>4</sup>  
5

## 6 Abstract

7 Residential skyscrapers play a vital role in all aspects of sustainable developments as  
8 an integral component of the built environment. The need for tall buildings first arose in  
9 Chicago in the late 19th century while today more and more skyscrapers are built to  
10 accommodate many occupants in the small available land plots of the world's megacities. In  
11 this paper, after reviewing previous studies, a series of effective indicators are prioritized so  
12 that a method for analysing the sustainability performance of residential skyscraper buildings  
13 relating to the three dimensions of sustainability is presented. Residential skyscrapers should  
14 be designed to respond to all different requirements during their life cycle. Inclusion of  
15 economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development in the initial  
16 design results in a higher quality of life in residential skyscraper buildings. The method used  
17 in this paper is the Integrated Value Model for Sustainable Assessment (MIVES) - a multi-  
18 criteria decision-making method for assessing sustainability. In this regard, nine residential  
19 skyscrapers as case studies have been evaluated in Dubai. Based on the multi-criteria approach

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20 used in this paper, the analysed residential skyscrapers in Dubai have a sustainability  
21 performance in range of  $0.29 < SI < 0.62$ .

22 **Keywords:** Residential skyscraper, quality of life, life cycle, Sustainability assessment, MIVES.

## 23 **Practical Applications**

24 This paper aims to evaluate the sustainability of residential skyscrapers based on the use of  
25 MIVES, a decision-making approach. Based on the literature review, there are not high-rise  
26 buildings design and construction studies covering all the pillars of sustainability. Due to that,  
27 nine case studies were selected in the city of Dubai and evaluated by means of the MIVES  
28 approach. MIVES integrates three requirements of sustainability (economic, environmental  
29 and social) by using the concept of value functions and indicators based on the weight  
30 assignment.

31 In this regard, the formulae for the sustainability index were defined in this model, and  
32 each of these case studies has been quantitatively assessed and the degree of sustainability of  
33 each tower was determined. All these data and results provided a framework and reference to  
34 establish a minimum sustainability index that future residential skyscrapers constructed in  
35 Dubai should achieve. In addition, the evaluation of residential skyscrapers may be reviewed  
36 from other dimensions of sustainability, for example, landscape for the design of outdoor  
37 spaces and so forth.

## 38 **Introduction**

39 Given the technological, historical, climatic and social conditions, housing is the establishment  
40 of economic and cultural vitality and it is a critical factor in the quality of life for the residents.  
41 (Hudgins 2009; Yeang 2006; Modi 2014). Residential skyscrapers (RS) buildings have been  
42 considered as a suitable way to restructure busy city centres in order to reduce the impact on  
43 the use of land (Lau 2014). Advances in architecture, engineering and construction (AEC)  
44 industries have made possible an increase in size, height, and complexity of RS buildings while  
45 simultaneously reducing CO<sub>2</sub> footprint.

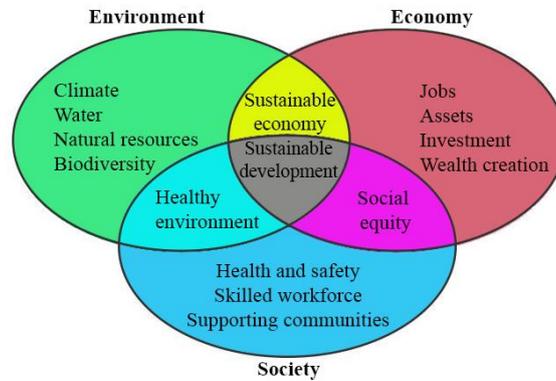
46 The Malaysian architect, [Yeang \(2012\)](#) who is the father of sustainable skyscrapers and  
47 bioclimatic buildings, has claimed that a tall building can be defined as a "vertical city" which  
48 requires designers to consider the various sustainability dimensions such as social,  
49 environmental and economic. [Ali and Armstrong \(2008\)](#) have highlighted some critical design  
50 factors and strategies that need to be considered to achieve sustainability in high-performance  
51 tall buildings using innovative technologies. [Jin et al \(2013\)](#), identified the prototype for  
52 sustainable high rise design trends for the future towers align with the Dubai Government's  
53 strategy based on a number of case studies. [Begec and Hamidabad \(2015\)](#) noted the sustainable  
54 concepts in some case examples of high-rise buildings. The concepts including ecological  
55 environment, active energy using and energy saving of ecological and sustainable architectural  
56 concepts, green construction and sustainable building principles. An extensive literature review  
57 on the topic of residential high-rise building has been performed and published in [Maleki et al](#)  
58 [\(2022\)](#).

59 RS buildings have a major impact on the carbon footprint during the construction, use  
60 and deconstruction stages. ([Cowlard et al. 2013](#)). Some of the reasons that RSs continue to be  
61 constructed and used can be summarized as follows: maximum utilization of land, provision of  
62 complete set of amenities, aesthetic qualities, high density, and reduction in the volume of  
63 urban infrastructure networks causing a general reduction in carbon footprint.

64 The main design factors that are necessary to achieve high-performance of RS are the  
65 structure, site context, energy usage, water consumption, materials, environment, and  
66 community development ([Ali and Armstrong 2008](#)). In general, sustainable development is  
67 classified in three aspects of social, environment and economic, which can affect each other as  
68 shown in [Fig. 1](#).

69 This paper aims to present a new model for assessing the sustainability of RS and in  
70 particular, consider the effective factors in design. The developed model is based on a multi-

71 criteria analysis method, the so-called Integrated Value Model for Sustainable Assessment  
 72 (MIVES). This method makes it possible to consider the three main pillars of sustainability and  
 73 the various stakeholders can use it as a decision-making model (Al-Jokhadar and Jabi 2016).



74  
 75 Fig. 1. Sustainable development aspects (International Monetary Fund 2014).  
 76

77 **MIVES multi-criteria decision-making method**

78 Multi-criteria decision-making (MCDM) is a good tool to achieve the best decision when  
 79 choosing from various options in building construction or operation management and it helps  
 80 decision-makers (Mosalam et al. 2012). There are a few studies on the development of a  
 81 method to assess the global sustainability of the RS. This section aims to review and analyse  
 82 the existing literature in order to identify previous methods used to assess the sustainability of  
 83 RS. Table 1 summarizes the different methods used for sustainability assessment of RS. After  
 84 evaluating different methods, the features, advantages and disadvantages of each method were  
 85 examined as shown in Table 2.

86 Table 1. Summary of different methods used for sustainability assessment of RS buildings

Method	Area of study	Reference
Analytical Hierarchy Process (AHP)	High-rise building construction	Kia & Adeli, (2014).
Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT)	Project management	Zavadskas et al., (2013)
Elimination and Choice Expressing Reality (ELECTRE) + Preference Ranking Organization Method of Enrichment Evaluation (PROMETHEE)	Structural systems	Balali et al., (2014)
Elimination and Choice Expressing Reality (ELECTRE)	Energy efficient retrofitting	Carapeto et al., (2016)
Technique for Order Preference by Similarity to Ideal Solution (TOPSIS)	Evacuation capability assessment	Mei et al., (2012)

VIsekriterijumsko KOMPromisno Rangiranje (VIKOR)	Response to risk	Katebi & Teymourfar, (2017)
Complex Proportional Assessment (COPRAS)	Structural systems	Tamošaitienė & Gaudutis (2013)
Choquet Integral (CI)	Residential heating system	Ozdemir & Ozdemir (2019)
Simple Additive Weighting (SAW)	Assessment of high-rise timber buildings	Tupėnaitė <i>et al.</i> , (2019)
Integrated Value Model for Sustainable Assessment (MIVES)	Sustainability assessment	Maleki & Casanovas Rubio (2019); Maleki <i>et al.</i> , (2019; 2022)

87

88 Table 2. Strengths, weaknesses and other relevant information of the various sustainability assessment methods

Abbreviation	Description	Methodology	Software	Applications	Strengths	Weaknesses
AHP	The AHP is a theory of measurement concern with quantifiable and/or intangible criteria in decision-making and conflict resolution developed by Saaty (1980).	Comparison of evaluation criteria and alternatives. The decision applications of the AHP are carried out in two phases: hierarchic design and evaluation of design.	MultCSync Expert Choice Logical Decisions, Web-HIPRE (HIPRE 3+, HIVIEW	Construction Environmental planning Energy design Social sciences Agriculture Marketing	Its applicability to the weighting of fuzzy criteria, along with solid ones, through ratio scales and scoring. Decomposing a problem or process in its components and combining these in a rational way. Its ability to handle both quantitative and qualitative judgements.	The number of comparisons to be made may become very large increasing significantly the uncertainty of the process. Its inability to reflect the human cognitive process because it does not cope with the uncertainty and ambiguity, which occurs in decision maker's judgments.
SWOT	The SWOT as a method of analysis for instrument formulating management strategies is recommended.	It is constructed according to the four factors of decision-making: alternatives, criteria, performance, and weight. Alternatives refer to objects to be compared (e.g., the criteria of company A and B refer to the key factors of external assessment). Performance structure refers to weights of the key factors. Performance refers to the performance of the object put into comparison under the evaluation of all the key factors.	Smart Draw SWOT Map Gliffy Creately SWOT Analysis Generator	Business Land-resource Planning Urban strategy planning Tourism planning	The algorithm helps to select the most preferable strategies based on the expert judgment and permutation method of feasible alternatives. It helps find a sustainable opportunity in the market. When used in a personal context, it helps develop career in a way that takes best advantage of talents, abilities and opportunities. It helps focus on strengths, minimizing threats and take the greatest possible advantage of opportunities available.	There is not any weighting factors (ambiguity).
ELECTRE	Bernard Roy developed ELECTRE in the mid-1960s. Today there exist several variations of the	ELECTRE involves a systematic analysis of the relationship between all the different options,	CSMAA software	Engineering and Infrastructure Investments studies Environmental	The comparison of the alternatives can be achieved even if there is not a clear preference for each one.	It is a rather complex decision making method and requires many primary data.

	first method, namely ELECTRE I, ELECTRE II, ELECTRE III, ELECTRE IV, ELECTRE IS and ELECTRE TRI. All methods use an outranking methodology to solve problems.	based on each option's scores on a set of common criteria of evaluation.		Renewable energy Waste management	It has the ability to handle both quantitative and qualitative judgements. The tradeoffs among multiple attributes are compensatory, and the information contained in the decision matrix is fully utilized.	Sometimes ELECTRE is difficult to identify the preferred alternative.
PROMETHEE	PROMETHEE uses the outranking principle to rank the alternatives like ELECTRE. PROMETHEE I is used for partial ranking of the alternatives and PROMETHEE II for their complete ranking. There are also PROMETHEE III, IV, V and VI.	PROMETHEE is based on mutual comparison of each alternative with respect to each of the selected criteria.	D-Sight Visual PROMETHEE	Urban infrastructures Medicine Chemistry Tourism	PROMETHEE supports group-level decision making and it constitutes a useful platform for debate and consensus building. PROMETHEE as an all-outranking method can simultaneously deal with qualitative and quantitative criteria. These scores of criteria can be expressed in their own units. PROMETHEE can deal with uncertain and fuzzy information.	PROMETHEE suffers from the rank reversal problem when a new alternative is introduced. PROMETHEE does not provide the possibility to structure a decision-making problem in the cases of many criteria and options. It thus may become difficult for the decision maker to obtain a clear view of the problem and to evaluate the results. Until now, PROMETHEE does not provide any formal guidelines for weighing, but assumes that the decision maker is able to weigh the criteria appropriately.
TOPSIS	It is a simple ranking method in conception and application technique based on the concept that the best alternative to a MCDM problem is the one, which is closest to its ideal solution.	TOPSIS helps to evaluate the objectives in terms of multidimensional economic phenomena based on the set of detailed economic attributes.	Excel	Human resources management Energy management Supply chain Management and logistics design, engineering and manufacturing systems	It has a simple process and it is easy to use and it is programmable. The number of steps remain the same regardless of the number of attributes.	Euclidean distance, does not consider the correlation of attributes. It is difficult to weight attributes and keep consistency of judgment, especially with additional attributes.

VIKOR	The VIKOR method was developed for multi-criteria optimization of complex systems. It determines the compromise-ranking list and the compromise solution obtained with the initial weights.	VIKOR method includes a multi criteria optimization of complex systems that focuses on ranking and selecting from a set of alternatives among conflicting criteria.	MATLAB Trapezoidal Fuzzy VIKOR Software	Design and manufacturing management Environmental resources & energy management Construction management Health care and risk management Supply chain and logistics management	This method focuses on ranking and selecting from a set of alternatives, and determines compromise solution for a problem with conflicting criteria, which can help the decision makers to reach a final solution.	It needs some modifications, as it is sometimes difficult to model a real-time solution. Difficulty of dealing with conflicting situations. Lack of consideration and interactions among criteria.
COPRAS	Ranking alternatives based on several criteria by using weights in alternatives. The selection of the best alternative is based on considering ideal and worst case scenario solutions.	<i>COPRAS</i> method is based on multi criteria evaluation of maximum and minimum values of each criteria.	Excel	Construction locating of roads Manufacturing of systems Risk analysis Intelligent environment	Evaluating both maximizing & minimizing criteria values separately. Simple computation process with less computational time. Ranking alternatives in terms of significance.	Less stable than other methods in cases of data variation. Results obtained by COPRAS depend on the number of minimizing criteria and the values.
Choquet Integral	Choquet Integral is an aggregation function defined with respect to the fuzzy measure. It is capable of representing interactions between the criteria.	Choquet Integral is based on sort of general averaging operator that can represent the notions of importance of a criteria and interactions among criteria.	Excel	Capacity identification Construction Data modelling Risk assessment	Can be used for both single & multifaceted decision making problems. Considers the interaction among criteria. Can deal with qualitative & quantitative criteria. Mathematically not demanding.	Time consuming and difficulty of Assigning weights. This depends on the subjective input from a panel of experts. It is almost impossible to assign weights when the number of criteria increases.
SAW	Earliest and most commonly used MCDM approach. In SAW, a value function is established based on a simple addition of scores that represent the goal achievement under each criteria, multiplied by the particular weights.	SAW is based on weighted summation of rating the performance of each alternative on all alternative criteria.	Excel	Energy efficiency Geographic research Construction	Simple computation and easily understandable. Ability to compensate among criteria for decision-makers.	Estimates revealed do not always reflect the real situation. Difficulty in multi-dimensional problems where the criteria units are different and their numerical values are occasionally several orders of magnitude apart.

						Illogical results may be obtained.
MIVES	It is a methodology, which combines two concepts as MCDA and Value Engineering to synthesize any type of criteria in a value index.	MIVES method is a combination of techniques based on a requirement tree, value functions, and the Analytic Hierarchy Process (AHP).	Excel	Industrial buildings Underground infrastructures Hydraulic structures Wind towers Sewerage systems Post-disaster site and housing selection Construction projects	Ability to compare design alternatives. MIVES allows comparing and prioritizing alternative solutions while minimizing the subjectivity in the decision-making process.	Allocating weights in the tree branches with up to four indicators does not generate problems. With more than four, one often loses the overall view and this can lead to inconsistencies, among other potential problem.

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93 After analysing the various MCDM, the method selected in this paper is MIVES.  
94 MIVES is a multi-criteria decision model that integrates the basic requirements of  
95 sustainability (economic, environmental and social) and includes the concept of value functions  
96 that is used as an assessment tool. Some of the novelties of MIVES in this paper are that it  
97 considers the most representative sustainability indicators of the process/system under  
98 assessment. The proposed set of weights are aligned with the priorities and sensitivities of all  
99 the involved stakeholders. Another innovation of this paper is that is the first study to  
100 implement MIVES to evaluate all the aspects of sustainability of the design and construction  
101 of RSs.

102 For the below reasons MIVES method is preferred to other methods:

- 103 • Using MIVES method, alternatives can be compared in determining criteria and sub-  
104 criteria. Concerning the subject design of RS, using the weighting capability of the  
105 criteria, it is possible to identify the importance of the criteria and prioritize these. As a  
106 result, the decision-making process can be simply completed. MIVES also enables the  
107 identification and optimization of RS based on the satisfaction performance of  
108 stakeholders.
- 109 • MIVES can be combined with other decision-making methods such as, Analytical  
110 Hierarchy Process (AHP), Detector with Lepton, Photon, and Hadron Identification  
111 (Delphi), Multi-Criteria Search (MCS), and Performance-Based Engineering (PBE).  
112 MIVES is used to transform different types of variables, measured with different units,  
113 in the same dimensional unit to measure value ([del Caño et al. 2015](#)).
- 114 • MIVES reduces the subjectivity in decision-making, while integrating economic,  
115 environmental and social factors ([Pardo-Bosch and Aguado 2016](#)).

116 In MIVES, evaluations are carried out based on the following steps:

- 117 i. First, the problem is defined, for example, the fact that social factors have not been  
118 properly identified in some of the RS ([Al-Jokhadar and Jabi 2016](#)). One of the solutions

119 to this problem is for instance, the provision of social interaction facilities (e.g. adding  
120 a community hall).

121 ii. In the second step, the requirement tree is designed. The tree is a hierarchical scheme  
122 in which the different characteristics of the process to be assessed are defined in an  
123 organized way. MIVES process includes the requirement tree, weights assignment for  
124 requirement tree, quantification of the indicators and value function for indicators.

125 iii. In the next stage, different alternatives are evaluated by means of the model and a  
126 sustainability index (*SI*) is obtained for each of them.

127 iv. In final step, the alternatives are ranked according to their index and the best one is  
128 selected.

## 129 **MIVES-based approach to assessing the sustainability of RS**

### 130 **Requirement tree**

131 In the approach used in this paper, MIVES quantifies the indicators that typically involve  
132 social, economic and environmental measures in sustainability. These indicators have different  
133 units for this purpose and they are normalized using value functions. Different indicators are  
134 measured in units pertinent to the particular metric system and having a common unit of  
135 measurement is useful for comparison and synthesis of indicators. Combining measurements  
136 of multiple indicators produce the sustainability scores. In this way, composite indicators or  
137 aggregates can provide a single holistic value for general sustainability. MIVES consists of  
138 three phases as shown in [Fig. 2](#). These phases include the following:

#### 139 *i. Phase 1: Data collection*

140 In this phase, previous research is considered and the problem areas are identified in the studies.  
141 The main goal is to achieve the best sustainability solution, which can be reached by the use of  
142 a decision-making tree. This tree is based on a theoretical structure for identifying the most  
143 representative indicators.

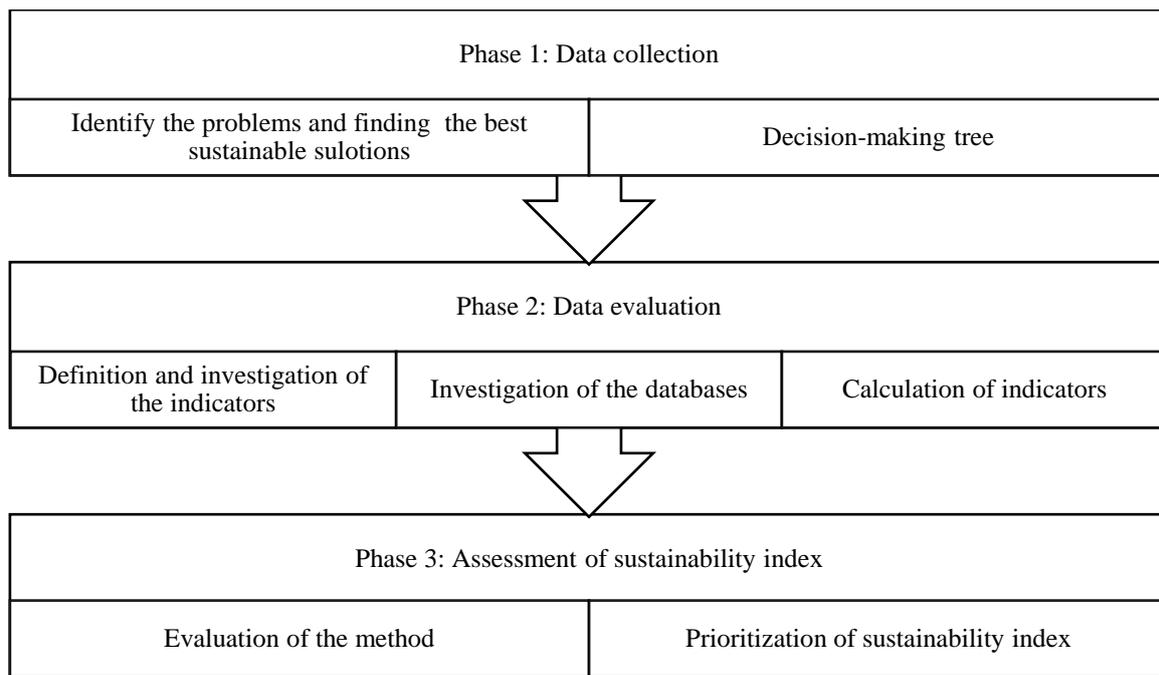
#### 144 *ii. Phase 2: Data evaluation*

145 In this phase, the definition of the indicators, that may be quantitative or qualitative, is

146 investigated at the same time as the databases. This is because there is a need to know what  
 147 information is available in order to define the indicators accordingly. In addition, it is possible  
 148 to find a very precise indicator but without the necessary data, it will not be very useful, as it  
 149 can not be calculated correctly. Value functions are calibrated to normalize the measure of the  
 150 indicators. Thus, a scale between 0 to 1 is considered, zero, indicates the minimum satisfaction  
 151 ( $S_{min}$ ) and one, indicates the maximum satisfaction ( $S_{max}$ ).

152 *iii. Phase 3: Assessment of sustainability index*

153 In this phase, the Sustainability Index ( $SI$ ) of each project alternative is assessed to evaluate the  
 154 application of this approach.  $SI$  is based on a formula presented in the following sections. The  
 155  $SI$  value of each alternative can ultimately be used to prioritize and assist stakeholders in the  
 156 decision-making process.



157

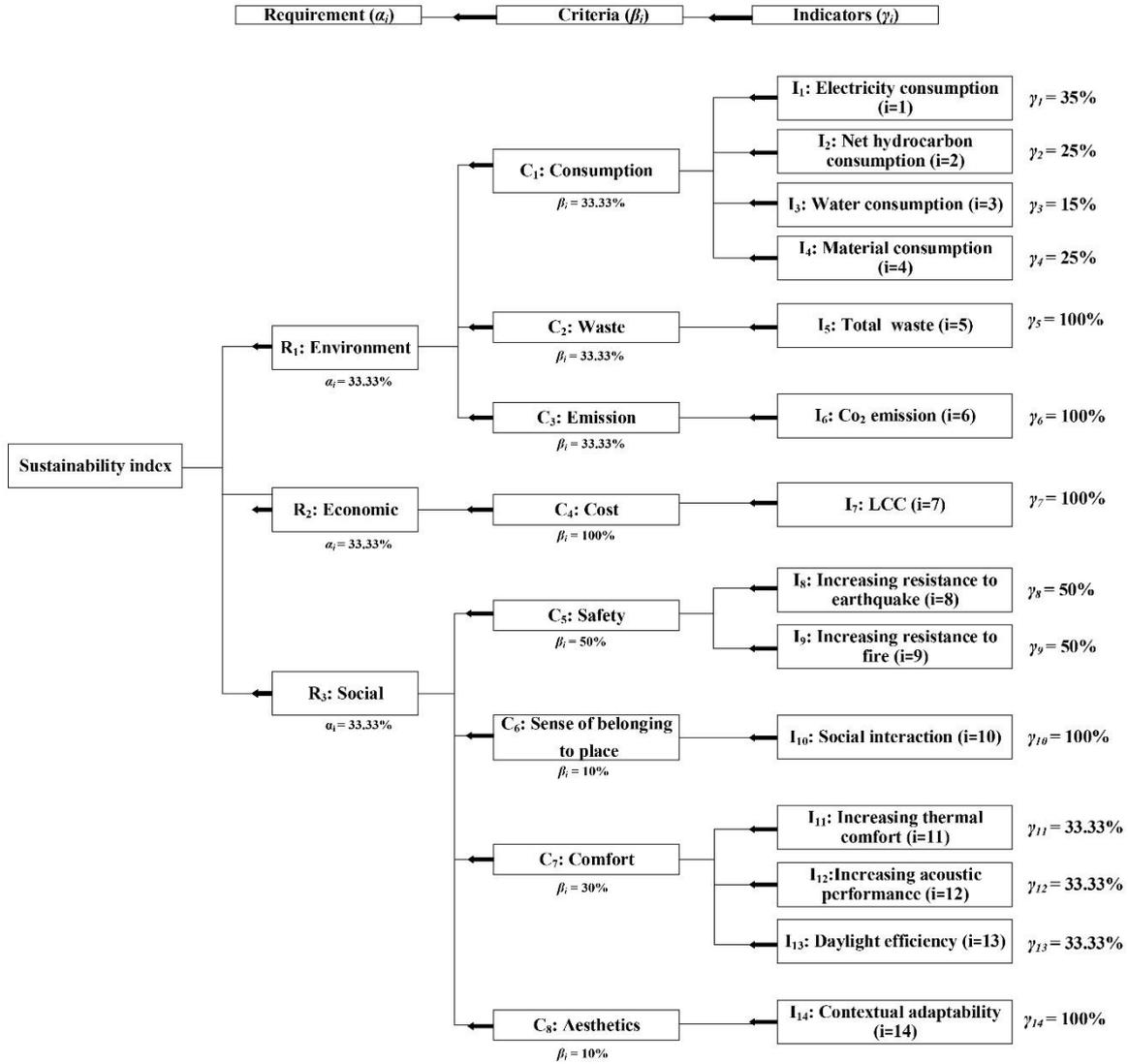
158 Fig.2. Three phases for sustainability assessment based on MIVES.

159 Requirement tree consists of the criteria and indicators that are relevant to the decision-making.  
 160 This tree enables the evaluation and level of satisfaction obtained in sustainability and decision-  
 161 making for a specific process. This tree is a hierarchical diagram in which the most significant  
 162 aspects of the options are organized. This is typically defined at three levels: requirements,

163 criteria and indicators. The indicators should be independent of each other to avoid overlaps in  
164 the evaluation process. Similarly, the indicators included are those considered most  
165 representative in terms of assessing the *SI*. Fig. 3 presents the decision-making tree for  
166 sustainability assessment of RS. The initial set of indicators was previously identified through  
167 an extensive literature review and consisted of nineteen indicators. From this, five indicators  
168 were discarded which include security against crime, safety of public space, user's flexibility,  
169 façade design and well-being. The reason, which these were discarded, was that these  
170 indicators were not quantifiable in MIVES calculation. The remaining fourteen indicators were  
171 selected and which were most applicable and these are presented in Fig. 3.

Assessment level ← Requirements level ( $\alpha_i$ ) ← Criteria level ( $\beta_i$ ) ← Indicators level ( $\gamma_i$ )

$$SI = \sum_{i=1}^{i=N} \alpha_i \cdot \beta_i \cdot \gamma_i \cdot v_i (S_{i,x})$$



172

173

Fig. 3. Decision-making tree for sustainability assessment of RS.

174 *Environmental requirement*

175 *Environmental requirement (R<sub>1</sub>)* assesses the environmental effects of RS on the entire life  
 176 cycle. It assesses both the positive and negative impacts that can be generated on the global  
 177 and local environment of RS. *R<sub>1</sub>* is based on four life cycle phases of the building: (i)  
 178 manufacturing; (ii) construction and assembly; (iii) use and maintenance (iv) demolition and  
 179 disassembly.

180 Manufacturing phase includes the manufacture and transportation of building materials  
181 and technical installations used in the erection and renovation of buildings. The method of  
182 construction, use of resources and assembly phase should be clearly defined for the smooth  
183 management of all activities. This is particularly important in relation to activities such as  
184 production, collection, transportation, storage and utilization of materials. Use and  
185 maintenance phase encompasses all activities related to the use of the buildings over its life  
186 span. These include maintaining suitable condition inside the buildings such as water use and  
187 power appliances. Demolition and disassembly phase includes destruction of the building and  
188 transportation of dismantled materials to landfill sites and/or recycling plants (Ramesh et al.  
189 2010). The life cycle stages of a building are all intensively involved, in the use of natural  
190 resources, energy and water are consumed in each of them (Ngwepe and Aigbavboa 2015).

#### 191 *Economic requirement*

192 The *economic requirement* ( $R_2$ ) measures the economic impact of RS both direct and indirect,  
193 during the entire life cycle.  $R_2$  aims to minimize the cost of construction into two periods, the  
194 time of project construction and project maintenance.

#### 195 *Social requirement*

196 The *social requirement* ( $R_3$ ) assesses the effects on residents as well as third parties involved.  
197 The health and welfare of people are prioritized above any other consideration.

#### 198 **Weights assignment**

199 Different methods can be used for assign the weights, such as direct assignment or AHP (Saaty  
200 1990) and for the aggregation of experts' opinions: seminars, mean, Delphi method, etc.  
201 (Casanovas-Rubio and Armengou 2018; Pons et al. 2016; Hopfe et al. 2013; Del Caño et al.  
202 2012). In this paper, MIVES has been used instead of other methods such as BREEAM,  
203 because the latter has some limitations that made it difficult to weight the criteria and indicators.

204 Some of the limitations are: complex weighting system (this complex process makes the  
 205 calculation less transparent), market oriented, cost of compliance (BSRIA, 2020; Freitas &  
 206 Zhang, 2018). In addition, LEED did not seemed to be a good method for this research due to  
 207 its limitations, such as weakness in weighting the criteria and lack of attention to the economic  
 208 aspect.

209 The use of MIVES for the assignment of weights and evaluation of 9 case studies is  
 210 recommended because of advantages such as: it is accessible to all stakeholders (i.e.,  
 211 researchers, consultants, designers, authorities), the sets of weights are aligned with the  
 212 priorities and sensitivities of all the involved stakeholders, and it considers the most  
 213 representative sustainability indicators of the process/system under assessment (Umer et al.,  
 214 2016).

215 For the research presented in this paper, the weights were assigned based on an extensive  
 216 literature review and seminar discussions. The weights assigned to the indicators ( $\gamma_i$ ) of each  
 217 criterion, to the criteria ( $\beta_i$ ) of each requirement and to the three requirements ( $\alpha_i$ ) of the  
 218 decision tree establish their relative importance and are presented in Fig. 3.

219 The weightings of the requirements  $\alpha (R_i)$  were assigned from the point of view of the  
 220 sustainability as a balance between the three requirements  $\alpha (R_i) = 0.33; i = 1, 2, 3$ , aligned  
 221 with the Rio Declaration (UN 1992). The following literature was considered to assign the  
 222 weights of the criteria and indicators (Alarcon et al. 2010; De la Fuente et al. 2017; Pardo-  
 223 Bosch and Aguado 2016). Consequently, these weights reflect the importance of the aspects  
 224 considered within the system boundaries and customize the general tree requirements to the  
 225 specific conditions of the case study. *SI* of each alternative is calculated using (Eq. 1):

$$SI = \sum_{i=1}^{i=N} \alpha_i \cdot \beta_i \cdot \gamma_i \cdot v_i (S_{i,x}) \quad (1)$$

226  $\alpha_i, \beta_i$  and  $\gamma_i$ : The weights of each requirement, criteria and indicator, respectively.

227  $v_i (S_{i,x})$ : The value of the alternative  $x$  with respect to a given indicator  $i$ .

228  $N$ : The total number of indicators.

229 The  $SI$  value of each alternative can ultimately be used to prioritize and assist stakeholders in  
230 the decision-making process.

## 231 **Value function and indicators**

### 232 **Value function**

233 In this paper, a value function that transforms the units of each indicator into a non- dimensional  
234 value between 0 and 1 was proposed for each of the indicators. These represent the valuation  
235 from zero to maximum satisfaction, respectively. This scale of non-dimensional values is  
236 necessary to even out the sum of the values of each indicator, the physical units of which will  
237 depend on the nature of the evaluation.

238 To determine the satisfaction value for an indicator, MIVES consists of a procedure,  
239 which includes the following four steps (MIVES 2005; Reyes et al.2014; Martínez-Santos et  
240 al.2008):

- 241 • Stage 1: definition of the tendency (increase or decrease) of the value function.
- 242 • Stage 2: definition of the points corresponding to the minimum ( $S_{min}$ , value 0) and  
243 maximum ( $S_{max}$ , value 1) satisfaction.
- 244 • Stage 3: definition of the shape of the value function (linear, concave, convex, and S-  
245 shaped).
- 246 • Stage 4: definition of the mathematical expression of the value function.

247 *Definition of the mathematical expression of the value function*

248 MIVES uses (Eq. 2) as basis for defining individual value functions  $V_i$ .

$$249 \quad v_i = M \cdot \left[ 1 - e^{-j \cdot \left( \frac{|S_{i,x} - S_{min}|}{R} \right)^q} \right] \quad (2)$$

250 In (Eq. 3) variable  $M$  is a factor that ensures that the value function will remain within the range  
251 of (0.0 -1.0) and the best response is associated with a value equal to the unit.

252 
$$M = \frac{1}{\left[1 - e^{-j \left(\frac{s_{max} - s_{min}}{R}\right)^q}\right]} \quad (3)$$

253 In (Eq. 2 and Eq. 3):

254  $S_{max}$  &  $S_{min}$ : Maximum & minimum points in the scale of the indicator under consideration.

255  $S_{i,x}$ : The score of alternative  $x$  that is under assessment, with respect to indicator  $i$  under  
 256 consideration, which is between  $S_{min}$  and  $S_{max}$ . This score generates a value that is equal to  $V_i$   
 257 ( $S_{i,x}$ ), which has to be calculated.

258  $q$ : The shape factor that defines approximation, in this case, whether the curve is *concave* ( $q <$   
 259  $1.0$ ), or whether it tends to be a *straight line* ( $q \approx 1.0$ ), or whether it is *convex* or *S-shaped* ( $q >$   
 260  $1.0$ ).

261  $R$ : The value that is used, if  $q > 1.0$ , to build *convex* or *S-shaped* curves as it coincides  
 262 approximately with the value of the abscissa on which the inflection point occurs.

263  $j$ : the value of the ordinate for point  $j$ , in the former case where  $q > 1.0$ .

264 The value functions for the fourteen indicators are shown in **Table 3** and the requirement  
 265 tree shown in **Fig. 3** are sustainability analysis models for RS. Parameters and shapes of value  
 266 functions were also defined in the experts seminars, using the references presented in the final  
 267 column of **Table 3**. DCv functions were chosen for indicators that the client demand maximum  
 268 satisfaction.

269 From the fourteen indicators, 5 increase concavely (ICv), 2 decrease convexly (DCx),  
 270 3 decrease S-shape (DS), 1 decrease linear (DL), 2 increase S-shape (IS), 1 decrease concavely  
 271 (DCv). DCx function is suitable when there is hardly any increase for small changes around  
 272 the point that creates the minimum satisfaction. This type of relationship is selected when  
 273 approaching the maximum satisfaction point is greater than moving away from the minimum  
 274 satisfaction point. This type of function is often used for economic or environmental indicators.

275 The goal is to ensure that the alternatives are as close to the maximum possible satisfaction  
276 point as possible.

277 This is also used when most alternatives are close to maximum satisfaction. In this case,  
278 as in the previous case, discrimination of alternatives is better and the motivation for  
279 improvement is greater. DCx functions show indicators that stakeholders will be prepared to  
280 accept partial satisfaction. Indicators with DL functions fall somewhere in between. The linear  
281 function represents a steady increase in the satisfaction generated by the alternatives. There is  
282 a proportional relationship in the whole range. This function is the default option when there  
283 is not a specific criterion, which can be defined.

284 ICv functions show the indicators that can increase the satisfaction of the decision  
285 makers. S-shaped function shows indicators with a combination of concave and convex  
286 functions. A significant increase in satisfaction is detected at central values, while satisfaction  
287 changes little as the minimum and maximum points are approached. DS functions present  
288 indicators that can increase in measurements and may cause a decrease in satisfaction. In  
289 contrast, IS functions present an increase in the measurements and may cause an increase in  
290 satisfaction.

291 DCv concave curve is used when, starting from the minimum satisfaction with the  
292 indicator firstly increasing rapidly. In this case, small changes around the point that creates the  
293 minimum satisfaction are highly valued. This type of relationship is chosen when moving away  
294 from the minimum satisfaction point, is more important than approaching the maximum  
295 satisfaction point. This is also used when most alternatives are close to the minimum  
296 satisfaction. In this case, the discrimination between the alternatives is better and the motivation  
297 for improvement is greater.

298

299

300 Table 3. Value function parameters for each indicators

Indicator	Unit	$x_{max}$	$x_{min}$	$R$	$j$	$q$	Shape	Ref.
I1. Net electricity consumption	kWh/m <sup>2</sup> /year	187.85	1036.29	387	0.19	3.64	DS	Barros et al. (2015)
I2. Hydrocarbon consumption	litre/m <sup>2</sup> /year	133006.56	733722.55	435000	0.009	3.64	DCx	Pons and de la Fuente. (2013)
I3. Water consumption	litre/m <sup>2</sup> /year	96.28	531.22	815	0.009	0.97	DL	Aguado et al. (2012)
I4. Material consumption	tons/m <sup>2</sup>	1.40	2.68	4250	0.000009	1.89	DCx	Casanovas-Rubio and Ramos, (2017)
I5. Total waste	kg/m <sup>2</sup> /year	10.88	60.03	1250	3753	2.35	DS	del Caño et al. (2012)
I6. CO2 emission	kg/m <sup>2</sup> /year	380.17	2097.19	3740	34.45	2.85	DS	de la Fuente et al. (2016)
I7. LCC	Currency/m <sup>2</sup> /year	39.44	295.06	55.46	0.52	0.84	DCv	de la Fuente et al. (2017)
I8. Increased resistance to earthquake	Richter	7	6	354	10	0.7	ICv	de la Fuente et al. (2017)
I9. Increased resistance to fire	hour	3	2	13	4	0.8	ICv	Pons and Aguado (2012)
I10. Social interaction	Points	5	1	4.21	4.50	3.10	IS	Lombera et al. (2010)
I11. Increased thermal comfort	w/m <sup>2</sup> k	0.307	0.124	2.1	0.5	0.6	ICv	Pons and de la Fuente.(2013)
I12. Increased acoustic performance	dB	0.952	0.044	9.246	1.79	0.3	ICv	Mosalam et al. (2012)
I13. Daylight efficiency	%	5	2	2.1	1.6	3.5	IS	de la Fuente et al. (2017)
I14. Contextual adaptability	Points	5	3	4.55	4.31	3.08	ICv	Jato-Espino et al. (2014)
$x_{max}$ : the lowest amount of consumption obtained from the case studies has led to the maximum satisfaction. $x_{min}$ : the maximum amount of consumption obtained from the case studies has resulted in a minimum of satisfaction.								

301

302 **Indicators**

303 *Net electricity consumption (kWh/m<sup>2</sup>/year)*

304 The indicator *net electricity consumption (I1)* assesses the electrical power consumption over

305 the gross area of the RS lifecycle and it is calculated as the energy consumed per gross square

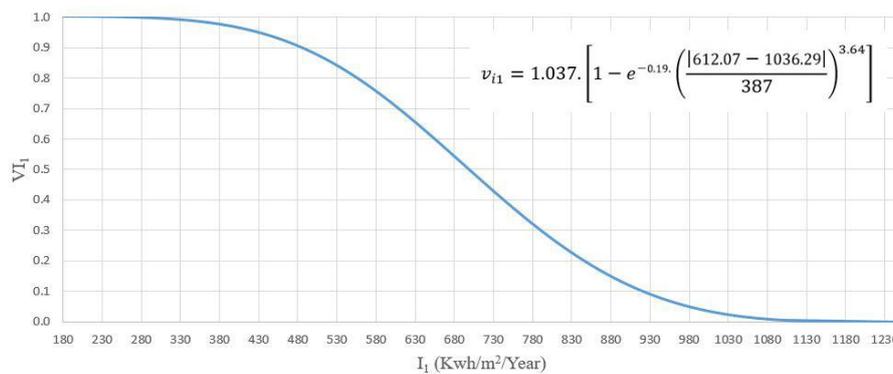
306 meter per year minus the energy produced in the building per gross square meter per year. This

307 is the total energy in the two phases of manufacturing/construction and use/maintenance. The  
 308 direct and indirect energy demand throughout the life cycle of the building is considered. Direct  
 309 energy refers to the energy used to build, operate, rehabilitate and demolish buildings, while  
 310 indirect energy consumption refers to the energy consumed to manufacture the construction  
 311 materials and its facilities (Sartori and Hestnes 2007). Fig. 4 shows the value function of net  
 312 electricity consumption indicator. In Fig. 4, the amount between 187.85 to 1036.29  
 313 (kWh/m<sup>2</sup>/year) is related to the amount calculated from nine case studies. The added value for  
 314 net electricity consumption of RS is evaluated through (Eq. 4):

315 Net energy consumption (kWh/year) = the number of residents × annual energy consumption  
 316 per capita using the building.

317 According to World Bank organization, 11088.35 kWh energy per capita consumed in  
 318 UAE in 2014 (Juaidi et al. 2016).

319  $I_1$  = Net energy consumption per square meter (kWh/m<sup>2</sup>/year) = net energy consumption/ gross  
 320 floor area (GFA). (4)



321  
 322 Fig. 4. Value function of net electricity consumption indicator ( $I_1$ ).  
 323

324 *Hydrocarbon consumption (litre/m<sup>2</sup>/year)*

325 The indicator *hydrocarbon consumption* ( $I_2$ ) includes the hydrocarbon consumption during the  
 326 RS life cycle, in manufacturing, construction, use and maintenance. Fig. 5 shows the value  
 327 function of hydrocarbon consumption indicator. In Fig. 5, the amount between 133006.56 to

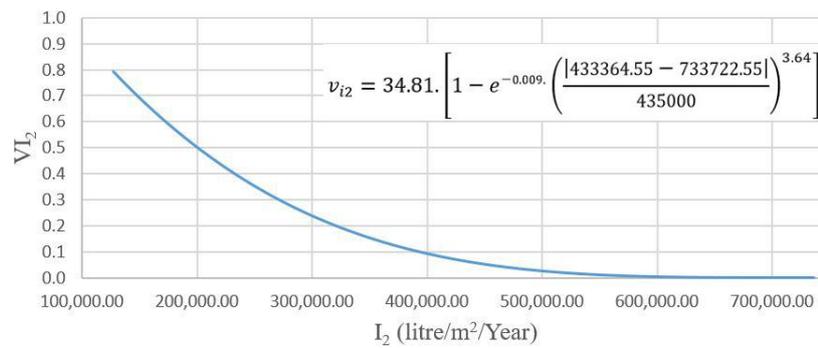
328 733722.55 (litre/m<sup>2</sup>/year) is related to amount of nine case studies. The added value for  
 329 hydrocarbon consumption of RS is suggested to be evaluated through (Eq. 5):

330  $I_2 = \text{Hydrocarbon consumption (litre/year)} = \text{the number of residents} \times \text{annual fuel}$   
 331  $\text{consumption per capita.} \tag{5}$

332 Hydrocarbon consumption per square meter (litre/m<sup>2</sup>/year) = hydrocarbon consumption/GFA.

333 The United Arab Emirates's Natural Gas per capita per year is 7850845.72 (litre/year)

334 (Khondaker et al., 2016).



335  
 336 Fig. 5. Value function of hydrocarbon consumption indicator ( $I_2$ ).  
 337

338 *Water consumption (litre/m<sup>2</sup>/year)*

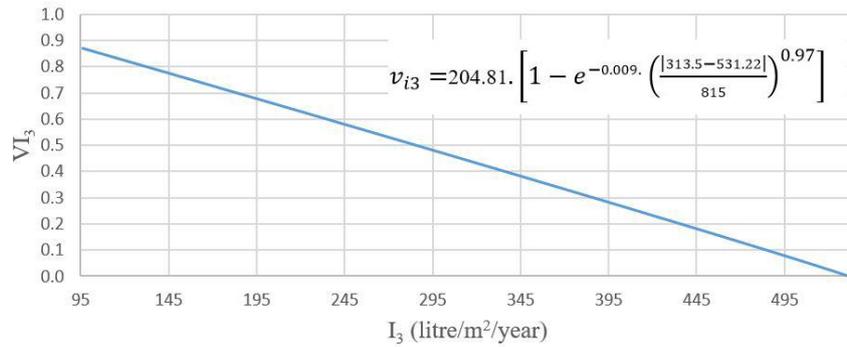
339 The indicator *water consumption* ( $I_3$ ) covers the water consumption in the three phases:  
 340 manufacturing, construction, use and maintenance. Fig. 6 shows the value function of net water  
 341 consumption indicator. In Fig. 6, the amount between 96.28 to 531.22 (litre/m<sup>2</sup>/year) is related  
 342 to amount of nine case studies which is calculated by the following equation. The added value  
 343 for net water consumption of RS is suggested to be evaluated through (Eq. 6):

344  $I_3 = \text{Net water consumption (litre/year)} = \text{the number of residents} \times \text{annual water consumption}$   
 345  $\text{per capita.}$

346 Net water consumption per sqmeter (litre/m<sup>2</sup>/year) = net water consumption /GFA.  $\tag{6}$

347 The United Arab Emirates's water consumption per capita per year is 200,705 (litre/year).

348 (Yagoub et al. 2019).



349

350

Fig. 6. Value function of net water consumption indicator ( $I_3$ ).

351

*Material consumption (tons/m<sup>2</sup>)*

352

The indicator *material consumption* ( $I_4$ ) evaluates the consumption of material resources for

353

the RS construction. **Table 4** shows the material consumption for nine case studies. The added

354

value for material consumption of RS is suggested to be evaluated through (Eq. 7):

355

$$I_4 = \text{Material consumption per sqm (tons/m}^2\text{)} = \text{material consumption/GFA} \quad (7)$$

356

Table 4. The material consumption for nine case studies

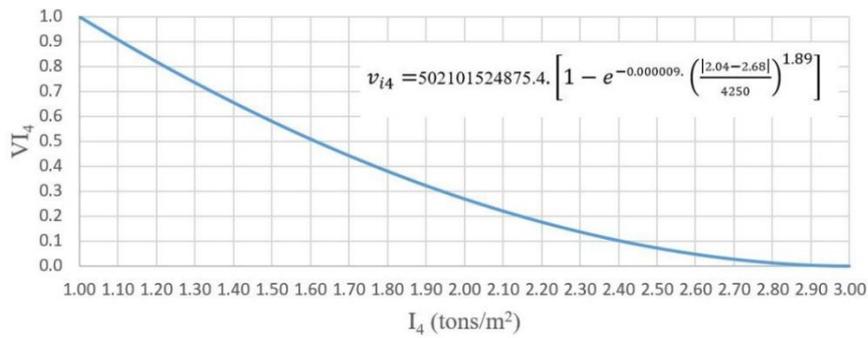
Building name	Gross floor area (GFA)	Material	Residents	material consumption (tons)	Material consumption per Sqmeter (ton/m <sup>2</sup> )
Burj Khalifa	309,473	steel/concrete	6,335	831,000	2.68
Princess tower	171,175	steel/concrete	2,900	241,000	1.40
23 Marina	139,596	concrete	8,734	263,836.44	1.89
Elite Residence	140,013	concrete	9,267	225,000	1.60
Uptown Tower	107,000	steel	10,000	202,230	1.89
The Torch	94,306	concrete	3,000	178,238.34	1.89
DAMAC Heights	89,579	concrete	2,700	169,304.31	1.89
Ocean Heights	113,416	concrete	2,301	214,356.24	1.89
21st Century Tower	86,000	steel/concrete	3,353	162,540	1.89

357

**Fig. 7** shows the value function of material consumption indicator. In **Fig. 7**, the amount

358

between 1.40 to 2.68 (tons/m<sup>2</sup>) is related to amount of nine case studies.



359

Fig. 7. Value function of material consumption indicator ( $I_4$ ).

360

361

362 *Total waste (kg/m<sup>2</sup>/year)*

363 The indicator *total waste* ( $I_5$ ) accounts for the total amount of waste material remaining from

364 the manufacturing, construction, use and maintenance. The use of waste is one of the ways to

365 integrate a sustainable approach to the construction industry (Barker 2000). Fig. 8 shows the

366 value function of net waste generation indicator. Net waste generation indicates the result of

367 multiplication of the number of inhabitants in the annual waste generation per capita in Dubai.

368 In Fig. 8, the amount between 10.88 to 60.03 (kg/m<sup>2</sup>/year) is related to amount of nine case

369 studies. The added value for net waste generation of RS is suggested to be evaluated through

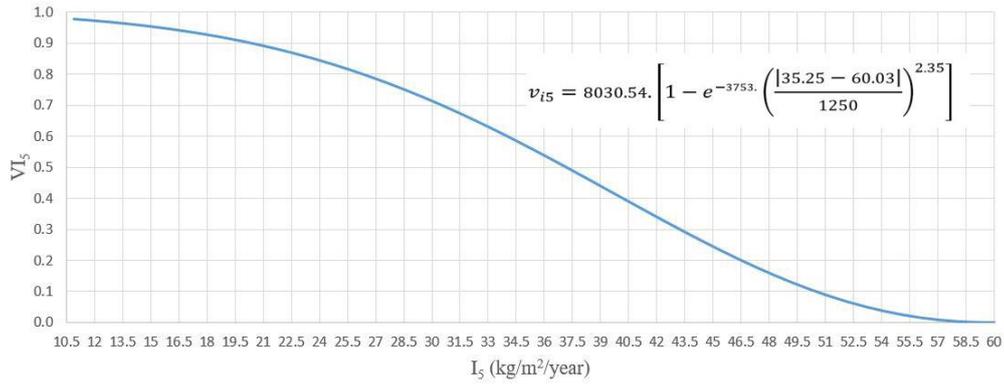
370 (Eq. 8):

371 Net waste generation (kg) = the number of residents × annual waste generation per capita.

$$372 I_5 = \text{Net waste generation per sqm (kg/m}^2\text{/year)} = \text{net waste generation} / \text{GFA.} \quad (8)$$

373 The yearly per capita municipal waste was approximately 470.85 (kg/year) by 2017 (Paleologos et

374 al. 2016).



375

376

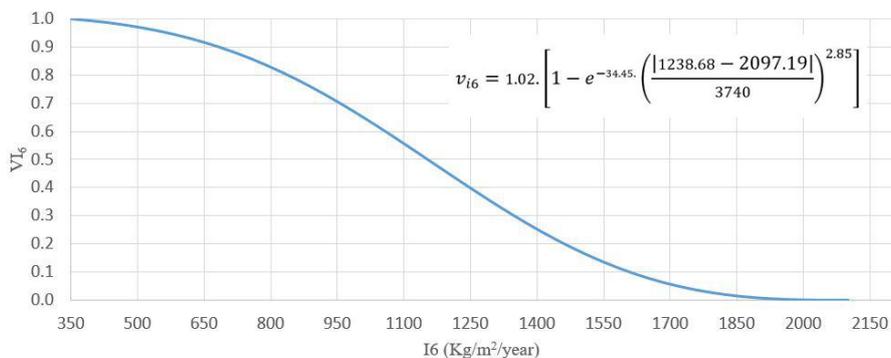
Fig.8. Value function of net waste generation indicator ( $I_5$ ).

377 *CO2 emission (kg/m<sup>2</sup>/year)*

378 The indicator *CO2 emission ( $I_6$ )* considers the CO2 emission for the RS emissions over its  
 379 lifecycle. Building construction causes high-energy consumption and CO2 emissions during  
 380 construction, use and demolition (Pons and Wadel 2011). Therefore, indicators should be  
 381 designed to assess the impact of RS on the environment in terms of CO2 emissions and energy  
 382 consumption based on life cycle assessment (LCA). Fig. 9 shows the value function of CO2  
 383 emission indicator. In Fig. 9, the value between 380.17 to 2097.19 (kg/m<sup>2</sup>/year) is related to  
 384 the value of nine case studies which is calculated by the following equation. The added value  
 385 for net CO2 emission of RS is suggested to be evaluated through (Eq. 9):

386  $I_6 = \text{Net CO2 emission (kg)} = \text{the number of residents} \times \text{annual CO2 emission per capita.}$

387  $\text{CO2 emission per sqm (kg/m}^2\text{/year)} = \text{net CO2 emission/GFA.}$  (9)



388

389

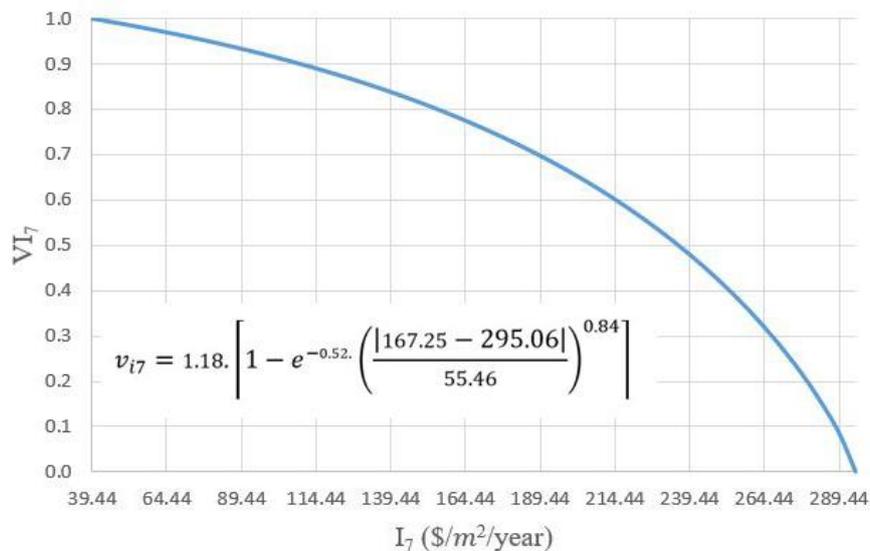
Fig. 9. Value function of net CO2 emission indicator ( $I_6$ ).

390

391 *LCC (Currency/m<sup>2</sup>/year)*

392 The indicator *LCC (I<sub>7</sub>)* considers the construction and maintenance costs in one Life cycle  
393 costing (LCC) indicator. The construction cost include both direct and indirect cost. Direct cost  
394 include the cost of land, the cost of construction per square meter. Indirect cost include the cost  
395 of renting machinery and the cost of transporting materials. The maintenance cost covers the  
396 expected cost during the life span of RS. In this paper, the life cycle of RS is assumed as 50  
397 years long. Fig. 10 shows the value function of LCC indicator. In Fig. 10, the amount between  
398 39.44 to 295.06 (\$/m<sup>2</sup>/ year) is related to the nine case studies which is calculated by the  
399 following equation. The added value for LCC of RS is suggested to be evaluated through (Eq.  
400 10):

401  $I_7 = \text{LCC indicator (monetary unit/m}^2\text{/year)} = \frac{\text{Construction costs}}{\text{Life time}} + \text{Maintenance costs per year} \quad (10)$



402

403 Fig. 10. Value function of LCC indicator (*I<sub>7</sub>*).

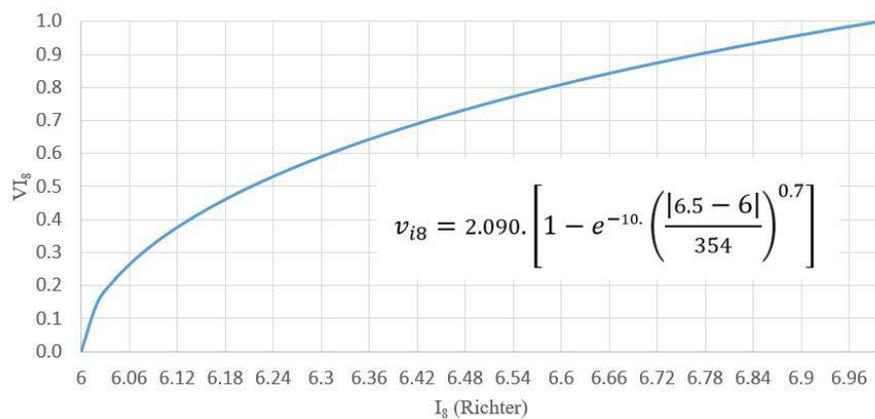
404 *Increased resistance to earthquake (Richter)*

405 The indicator *increased resistance to earthquake (I<sub>8</sub>)* evaluates the strength of the building  
406 against earthquake. In RS, normal vertical loads, dead or alive, do not cause much of a problem,  
407 but lateral loads due to wind or earthquake vibration should be given special attention in the  
408 design of buildings (Wakchaure et al. 2012). Fig. 11 shows the value function of increased

409 resistance to earthquake indicator. In Fig. 11, the amount between 6 to 7 (Richter) is related to  
 410 the nine case studies.

411 The added value for increased resistance to earthquake of RS is suggested to be  
 412 evaluated through (Eq. 11). Legislation for earthquake resistance in Dubai for RS is considered  
 413 6.00 (Richter) (El-Arab 2016). Earthquake resistance for Burj Khalifa is considered 7.00  
 414 (Richter) and for other case studies are considered 6.25 (Richter). Since the *SI* of each indicator  
 415 is a number between 0.0 and 1.0, the results of Equation (11) are taken into account in  
 416 calculating the *SI*. While the value function of indicator 8.0 is based on the range of between  
 417 6.00 and 7.00 (Richter).

$$418 \quad I_8 = \frac{\text{Earthquake resistance of the building (Richter)}}{\text{Earthquake resistance in the legislation (Richter)}} \quad (11)$$



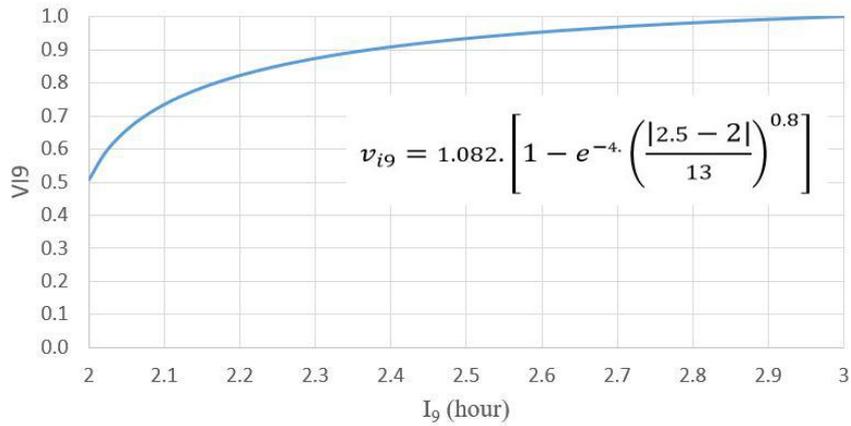
419 Fig. 11. Value function of increased resistance to earthquake indicator ( $I_8$ ).  
 420

421 *Increased resistance to fire (hour)*

422 The indicator, *increased resistance to fire ( $I_9$ )* assesses the durability of the material subject to  
 423 fire, based on comparing minimum fire resistance times in Dubai. Fig. 12 shows the value  
 424 function of increased resistance to fire indicator. In Fig. 12, the amount between 2 to 3 (hour)  
 425 is related to amount of nine case studies. Legislation for fire resistance in Dubai for RS is  
 426 consider 2 (hour) (Yuen et al. 2021). Fire resistance for Burj Khalifa is consider 3 (hour) and  
 427 for other case studies are consider 2.5 (hour). Since the *SI* of each indicator is a number between  
 428 zero to one, so in calculating the *SI*, the results of (Eq. 12) are considered. While the value

429 function of indicator 9 is based on the range of between 2 to 3 (hour). The added value for  
 430 increased resistance to fire of RS is suggested to be assessed through Equation (12):

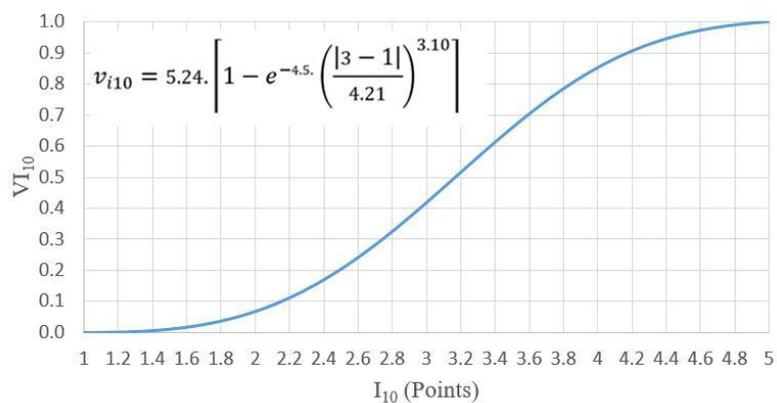
431 
$$I_9 = \frac{\text{Fire resistance of the building (hour)}}{\text{Fire resistance in the legislation (hour)}} \quad (12)$$



432  
 433 Fig. 12. Value function of increased resistance to fire indicator ( $I_9$ ).

434  
 435 *Social interaction (Points)*

436 The indicator *social Interaction* ( $I_{10}$ ) evaluates the social relations and neighbor's interactions  
 437 in RS and social interaction between family members. In order to evaluate this indicator, the  
 438 following survey was proposed based on seminars with multidisciplinary professionals who  
 439 collaborate in the construction sector, including architects, engineers, contractors, project  
 440 managers and psychologists. A measurable scale of 1 to 5 has been used to rate the need for  
 441 social interaction. Table 5 indicates the survey that helps decision-makers to make the correct  
 442 assessment in the shortest time. Fig. 13 shows the value function of social interaction indicator.



443  
 444 Fig. 13. Value function of social interaction indicator ( $I_{10}$ ).

445 Table 5. Proposed survey for assessing the social interaction (Adapted from: Lee et al. 2011; Yao 2020)

Building name	Amenities	Residential unit	Objective parameters that can affect the social interaction	Evaluation of parameters in buildings (score of each parameter 0.56)									Potential to socialize	Points	
				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9			
Burj Khalifa	Sky lobbies, fitness and spa, swimming pool, recreational room, observation deck, Library, Health club.	900, 304 hotel room	1. Creating recreational and social spaces	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	Very high	5
Princess tower	Gym, spa, indoor-outdoor swimming pools, event space, kids' play area, games room.	763	2. Good community and social planning	×		×			×	×		×		Medium	3
23 Marina	Spas, health club, Steam and Sauna, Gymnasium, Aerobics, Landscaped gardens, Jogging track, Indoor and outdoor swimming pools, Bubble Bath.	291	3. Improve level of safety such as good lighting	×	×	×		×	×	×		×			4.5
Elite Residence	Gym and fitness, tennis, indoor and outdoor swimming pool, sauna, Jacuzzi and sundeck-lounges, children's playroom, air hockey, billiards.	697	4. Providing public spaces, including natural and green spaces	×	×	×		×	×			×			4
Uptown Tower	Restaurants, conference facilities, Cinema, Residents' Lounge, Exclusive Pool & Spa, fitness.	237 plus 130 hotel room	5. Community circulation ways	×	×			×	×			×		Medium	3
The Torch	Sauna and steam room, swimming pool, gym.	676	6. Orientation of building	×				×	×			×			2
DAMAC Heights	Gymnasium with aerobics room, steam room, saunas, Jacuzzis, swimming pool, children's pool, children's playroom, residents' lounge, games room, barbecue area, cinema room.	640	7. Effective management of social spaces	×	×	×		×	×	×		×			4.5
Ocean Heights	Indoor and an outdoor swimming pool, sauna, massage, room, Kids' play area, gym and fitness.	672	8. Design of sky bridge	×		×			×			×		Low	2
21st Century Tower	Gym and fitness, rooftop swimming pool, outdoor playing area for children.	400	9. Social Interaction and community involvement	×		×		×				×		Low	2

446

447 *Increased thermal comfort (w/m<sup>2</sup>k)*

448 The indicator *increased thermal comfort (I<sub>11</sub>)* reflects the temperature in the building and it is

449 related to the comfort of residents inside. Temperature control systems in RS should maintain

450 indoor temperature at an appropriate level. The added value for increased thermal comfort of  
 451 RS is evaluated through (Eq. 13):

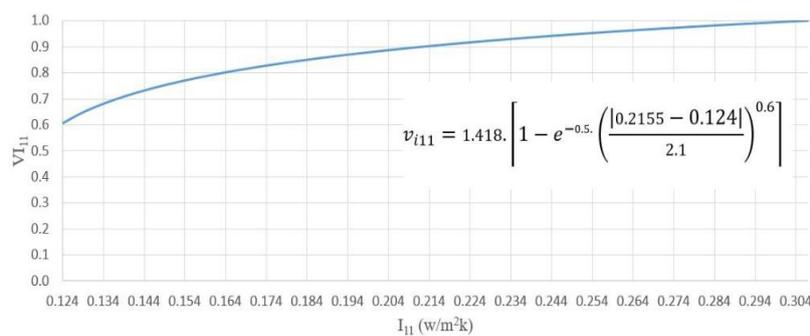
$$452 \quad I_{11} = \text{percentage of façade material (\%)} \times \text{U-value of façade materials (w/m}^2\text{k)} \quad (13)$$

453 It should be noted that for each city, the permitted U-value is defined according to the  
 454 legislation. U-value obtained from this equation should not exceed the allowable value of that  
 455 standard. The allowed level of U-value varies according to the regulations for walls, roof and  
 456 floors. In this paper, the criteria of this U-value is considered for exterior walls of the façade in  
 457 the buildings. Table 6 indicates U-value for different materials. For example, U-value for solid  
 458 aluminium is 221(w/m<sup>2</sup>k), but the aluminium used in the façade in the form of sheets has a  
 459 different value. This also applies to other materials. Fig. 14 shows the value function of  
 460 increased thermal comfort indicator.

461 Table 6. The U-value for different materials (Mirrahimi et al. 2016; O'Brien and Bennet 2016)

Material	U-value for façade material (w/m <sup>2</sup> k)
Glass wool insulation	0.042
Aluminum	0.43
Silicone	0.66
Stainless steel	0.35
Concrete	0.8

462



463

464 Fig. 14. Value function of increased thermal comfort indicator ( $I_{11}$ ).

465 *Increased acoustic performance (dB)*

466 The indicator *increased acoustic performance* ( $I_{12}$ ) evaluates the noise pollution and its impact  
 467 on RS. The additional value for this indicator is calculated from (Eq. 14 and Eq. 15):

$$468 \quad I_{12} = \frac{\text{Noise reduction of alternative} - \text{Required noise reduction}}{\text{Required noise reduction}} \quad (14)$$

469 Noise reduction of alternative = estimated noise outside – estimated noise inside (*dB*).

470 Required noise reduction = estimated noise outside – maximum allowed noise inside based  
471 on standard (*dB*).

472 Usually, the permissible amount of noise outside, for day and night, varies according  
473 to the standards of every city. In this study, to estimate the noise outside of each case study,  
474 several factors such as the height of the building, the amount of vehicle traffic in the streets  
475 around the building and the analysis of the environment around the building are considered. In  
476 addition, the maximum allowed noise inside is based on the legislation and is different for each  
477 city. (Eq. 14), is used to calculate the estimated noise inside:

$$478 \text{ Noise reduction of the alternative} = \text{Estimated noise outside} - (\text{percentage of façade material} \times \\ 479 \text{ noise reduction coefficient of material}) \times \text{Estimated noise outside.} \\ 480 (15)$$

481 Noise reduction coefficient (NRC) is a measure of a material's ability to absorb sound  
482 within the frequency range of speech. A material with an NRC of 0.0 will reflect all sound that  
483 hits to it. A material with an NRC of 1.0 will theoretically absorb all sound that hits to it. Table  
484 7 presents the noise reduction coefficient for some materials in the façade. It should be noted  
485 that the NRC in Table 7 is defined based on 250, 500, 1000 and 2000-Hertz (Hz) frequencies  
486 test. Table 8 shows the NRC values of most useful materials for noise barriers. Fig. 15 shows  
487 the value function of increasing acoustic performance indicator.

488 Table 7. The noise reduction coefficient for some materials in façade. (Adapted from: Fatima and Mohanty 2011)

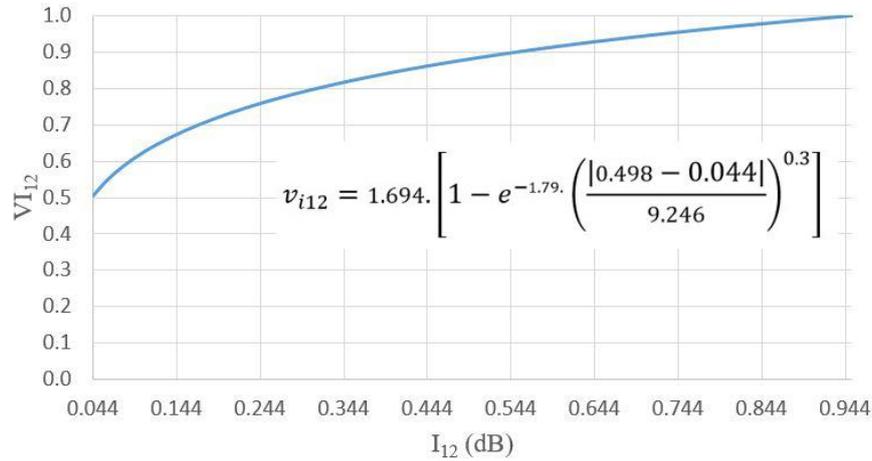
Material	NRC
Aluminum	0.05
Glass	0.02
Silicone	0.20
Stainless steel	0.23
Concrete	0.35

489  
490  
491  
492  
493  
494

495 Table 8. The NRC values of materials for noise barriers (Adapted from: Arenas and Asdrubali 2018)

Material	Frequency				NRC
	250 Hz	500 Hz	1000 Hz	2000 Hz	
Stainless steel (1.5mm)	0.34	0.25	0.19	0.15	0.23
Glass (6mm)	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.02
Plywood (10mm)	0.34	0.25	0.19	0.15	0.23
Concrete (150mm)	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.09	0.35
Exposed ground (1500mm)	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.03	0.02
Pool water (1500mm)	0.04	0.06	0.09	0.09	0.07
Plastic (3mm)	0.34	0.25	0.19	0.15	0.23

496



497  
498

Fig. 15. Value function of increased acoustic performance indicator ( $I_{12}$ ).

499 *Daylight efficiency (%)*

500 The indicator *daylight efficiency* ( $I_{13}$ ) assesses the utilization of natural light by utilizing  
 501 sustainability techniques. Fig. 16 shows the value function of daylight efficiency indicator. The  
 502 added value for day light efficiency of RS is evaluated through (Eq. 16): (Zhen et al. 2019;  
 503 Baker and Steemers 2014):

$$504 \quad I_{13} = ADF = \frac{TAW\theta}{A \times (1 - P^2)} \% \quad (16)$$

505  $T$ : Diffuse visible transmittance of the glazing.

506  $AW$ : Net glazed area of the window ( $m^2$ ).

507  $\theta$ : The angle of visible sky ( $^\circ$ ).

508  $A$ : Total area of the room surfaces: ceiling, floor, walls and windows ( $m^2$ ).

509  $P$ : The average reflectance of room surfaces i.e. walls, floors, ceilings.

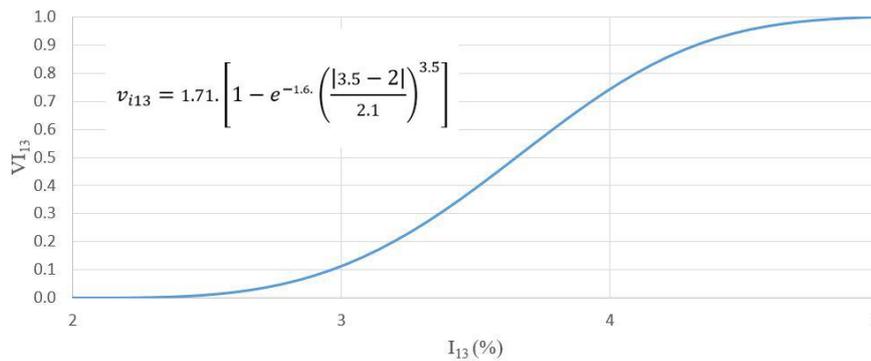
510  $ADF$  is measured as a percentage and is classified into 3 parts:

511 Below 2% - not bright enough and, as a result, requires artificial light.

512 Between 2 and 5% - sometimes light may be enough, but artificial light is needed.

513 More than 5% - Proper and artificial light is usually not needed, except between dusk and dawn

514 (Yarham and Wilson, 1999).



515

516 Fig. 16. Value function of daylight efficiency indicator ( $I_{13}$ ).

517 *Contextual adaptability (Points)*

518 The indicator *contextual adaptability* ( $I_{14}$ ) considers the contextual adaptability between RS

519 and its surrounding. To this end, **Table 9** provides a survey to identify the parameters that are

520 effective in adapting the RS to their surroundings.

521 The survey was defined based on seminars with architects, engineers and city planners.

522 A measurable scale of 3.0 to 5.0 is used to rate the compatibility of RS with its built

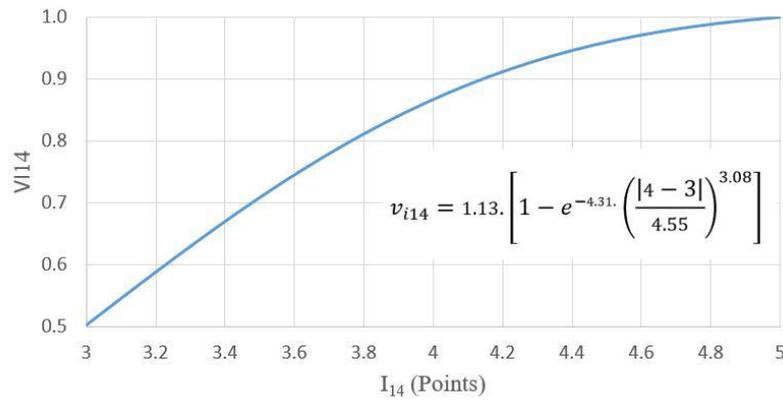
523 neighbourhood. The higher the score, the more compatibility is established between the RS

524 alternative and its nearby buildings. This survey helps decision-makers to assess the rate of

525 harmony between the alternatives of RS and their surroundings. Adaptability is also classified

526 as a capability of competence, where capabilities are derived from lower-level competencies

527 (Swafford 2006). **Fig. 17** shows the value function of contextual adaptability indicator.



528

529

Fig. 17. Value function of contextual adaptability indicator ( $I_{14}$ ).

530 Table 9. Proposed survey for assessing the contextual adaptability between RS building and its surrounding  
 531 (Adapted from: Manewa et al. 2016)

Building name	Objective parameters that can affect the contextual adaptability between RS building and its surrounding	Definitions of parameters	Evaluation of parameters in buildings (score of each parameter 0.42)												Potential to harmony	Points			
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12					
Burj Khalifa	Effective aesthetic factors	1. Harmony between the existing building and the surrounding buildings in terms of color, texture, facade style and skyline.	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	Very high	5
Princess tower		2. Proportion and aesthetics on visual integration between the existing building and other buildings in terms of height, human scale, dimensions and size.	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	Very high	5
23 Marina		3. Adaptability of the existing building with its surroundings in terms of building materials and attention to local characteristics of the area.	×	×	×	×	×	×		×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	high	4
Elite Residence	Proper interventionist factors	4. Projective unity of the landscape.	×	×	×	×	×	×	×		×	×	×	×	×	×	×	high	4
Uptown Tower		5. Easy access to the site and routes.	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	Very high	4
The Torch		6. Functional architectural forms and combination of structure and architectural form.	×	×	×	×	×	×			×	×	×	×	×	×	×	Medium	4
DAMAC Heights		7. Ability to convert or dismountable the part of the building form to	×	×	×		×	×	×		×	×	×	×	×	×	×	High	3

		change the function of the building.																	
Ocean Heights		8. Ability to overcapacity and moving the building elements.	×	×	×		×	×	×	×	×	×		×					
21st Century Tower	Relevant anthropological factors	9. Cultural unity of the landscape.	×	×	×	×	×	×		×	×		×	×					
		10. To revive the urban identity.																	
		11. Interaction of natural and cultural issues.																	
		12. The integration of the building with the cultural landscape.																	

532 **Dubai case study results**

533 In this paper, nine RS in Dubai have been chosen as case studies. All indicators are evaluated  
534 for these case studies. The authors have used a value per capita for the whole of UAE average  
535 and this is used in general in case-by-case studies. However, this is a limitation in this paper.

536 MIVES-based approach in this paper could also be used for other buildings with different  
537 function such as commercial, offices, sports, cultural and so forth. It is usually common to  
538 define the important criteria based on sustainability and assign a weight to each indicator so  
539 that the result of the evaluation can be the correct solution for decision makers in various  
540 situations.

541 **Table 10** examines the design and construction specifications of the case studies. **Table 11**  
542 shows the indicators result for the case studies and this result is consider for the entire buildings.  
543 **Table 12** presents the *SI* for case studies and this is for a better understanding, as to how to  
544 calculate each indicator for the case studies. In Table 10, the weights of requirements ( $\alpha_i$ ), the  
545 weights of criteria ( $\beta_i$ ) and the weights of indicators ( $\gamma_i$ ) were specified that these weights were  
546 distributed differently as previously shown in **Fig. 3**.

547  
548  
549  
550

551 Table 10. Characteristic of case studies (Adapted from: Arul et al. 2020; Emrem et al. 2008)

Building name	Height (m)	Height (ft)	Floors	Gross floor area (GFA)	Floor above ground floor	Floor below ground floor	Number of Elevator	Elevator speed (m/s)	Completion	Function
Burj Khalifa	828	2,717	163	309,473	163	2	58	10	2010	Office / residential/ Hotel/ retail/ communication/fitness
Princess tower	413.4	1,356	101	171,175	101	6	13	6	2012	Residential/fitness
23 Marina	392.4	1,287	89	139,596	89	4	62	8	2012	Residential/fitness
Elite Residence	380.5	1,248	91	140,013	87	4	12	6	2012	Residential/fitness/ commercial/ office/retail
Uptown Tower	370	1,214	78	107,000	78	-	14	6	2022	Residential/ hotel/office
The Torch	352	1,155	86	94,306	86	4	8	6	2011	Residential
DAMAC Heights	335.1	1,099	88	89,579	88	5	12	6	2018	Residential /retail
Ocean Heights	310	1,017	83	113,416	83	3	6	6	2010	Residential/fitness
21st Century Tower	269	883	55	86,000	55	4	7	6	2003	Residential

552

553 Table 11. Result of the indicators for case studies

Indicator	Names of buildings									
	Burj Khalifa	Princess tower	23 Marina	Elite Residence	Uptown Tower	The Torch	DAMAC Heights	Ocean Heights	21st Century Tower	
I <sub>1</sub> (kWh/m <sup>2</sup> /year)	1003.23	187.85	693.75	733.90	1036.29	352.73	334.21	224.96	432.31	
I <sub>2</sub> (Litre/m <sup>2</sup> /year)	160708.8	133006.5	491197.3	519620.9	733722.5	249745.4	236631.8	159278.8	306091.3	
I <sub>3</sub> (Litre/m <sup>2</sup> /year)	116.38	96.28	355.66	376.33	531.22	180.94	171.32	115.25	221.72	
I <sub>4</sub> (ton/m <sup>2</sup> )	2.68	1.40	1.89	1.60	1.89	1.89	1.89	1.89	1.89	
I <sub>5</sub> (kg/m <sup>2</sup> /year)	13.15	10.88	40.19	42.51	60.03	20.43	19.36	13.03	25.04	
I <sub>6</sub> (Kg/m <sup>2</sup> /year)	459.35	380.17	1,403.98	1,485.22	2,097.1	713.84	676.36	455.26	874.89	
I <sub>7</sub> (\$/m <sup>2</sup> / year)	128.95	39.44	63.00	51.38	138.89	295.06	158.70	96.11	190.52	
I <sub>8</sub> (Richter)	7	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	
I <sub>9</sub> (hour)	3	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	
I <sub>10</sub> (Points)	5	3	4.5	4	3	2	4.5	2	2	
I <sub>11</sub> (w/m <sup>2</sup> k)	0.124	0.274	0.307	0.293	0.158	0.197	0.138	0.236	0.177	

I <sub>12</sub> (dB)	0.836	0.368	0.084	0.422	0.044	0.152	0.952	0.26	0.098
I <sub>13</sub> (%)	2	5	5	5	5	3.5	2	5	2
I <sub>14</sub> (Points)	5	5	4	4	4	4	3	3	3

554

555 Table 12. Values and *SI* for case studies

Values	Burj Khalifa	Princess tower	23 Marina	Elite Residence	Uptown Tower	The Torch	DAMAC Heights	Ocean Heights	21st Century Tower
<i>SI</i>	0.499	0.291	0.380	0.375	0.622	0.611	0.451	0.358	0.418
V <sub>R1</sub>	0.41	0.13	0.28	0.28	0.99	0.20	0.19	0.16	0.22
V <sub>R2</sub>	0.31	0.10	0.16	0.13	0.32	1	0.36	0.23	0.42
V <sub>R3</sub>	0.78	0.63	0.69	0.70	0.56	0.63	0.78	0.35	0.60
V <sub>C1</sub>	1	0.27	0.61	0.61	1	0.41	0.40	0.34	0.46
V <sub>C2</sub>	0.07	0.06	0.14	0.14	1	0.09	0.09	0.07	0.10
V <sub>C3</sub>	0.08	0.07	0.10	0.10	1	0.09	0.09	0.08	0.09
V <sub>C4</sub>	0.31	0.10	0.16	0.13	0.32	1	0.36	0.23	0.42
V <sub>C5</sub>	0.95	0.9	1	1	0.98	0.98	0.95	0.98	0.92
V <sub>C6</sub>	0.36	0.06	0.84	0.14	0.06	0.02	0.21	0.02	0.25
V <sub>C7</sub>	0.85	0.55	0.34	0.62	0.17	0.29	0.94	0.43	0.23
V <sub>C8</sub>	0.13	0.13	0.09	0.09	0.13	0.5	0.09	0.5	0.5
V <sub>I1</sub>	0.08	0.24	0.08	0.08	0.5	0.14	0.15	0.21	0.12
V <sub>I2</sub>	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.5	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08
V <sub>I3</sub>	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.4	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51
V <sub>I4</sub>	1	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27
V <sub>I5</sub>	0.34	0.36	0.21	0.2	1	0.29	0.30	0.34	0.26
V <sub>I6</sub>	0.37	0.41	0.15	0.15	1	0.28	0.29	0.38	0.23
V <sub>I7</sub>	0.71	0.76	0.75	0.75	0.7	1	0.68	0.73	0.66
V <sub>I8</sub>	0.41	0.6	0.4	0.55	0.5	0.48	0.42	0.36	0.45
V <sub>I9</sub>	0.54	0.3	0.6	0.45	0.48	0.5	0.53	0.62	0.47
V <sub>I10</sub>	0.36	0.12	0.97	0.19	0.12	0.10	0.25	0.10	1
V <sub>I11</sub>	1	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.86	0.87	0.85	0.88	0.86
V <sub>I12</sub>	0.87	0.85	0.79	0.85	1	0.81	0.87	0.85	0.84
V <sub>I13</sub>	0.04	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.06	0.04	0.08	0.04
V <sub>I14</sub>	0.13	0.13	0.12	0.12	0.13	1	0.12	1	1

556

557 **Table 13** shows some of the sustainable strategies that have been effective in assign weight of  
558 indicators. In **Table 13**, the marks (x) indicate that the building performs well in the relation to  
559 sustainability. This table shows which of the sustainability indicators performed better in the  
560 case studies.

561 Table 13. Some of the sustainable strategies for nine case studies

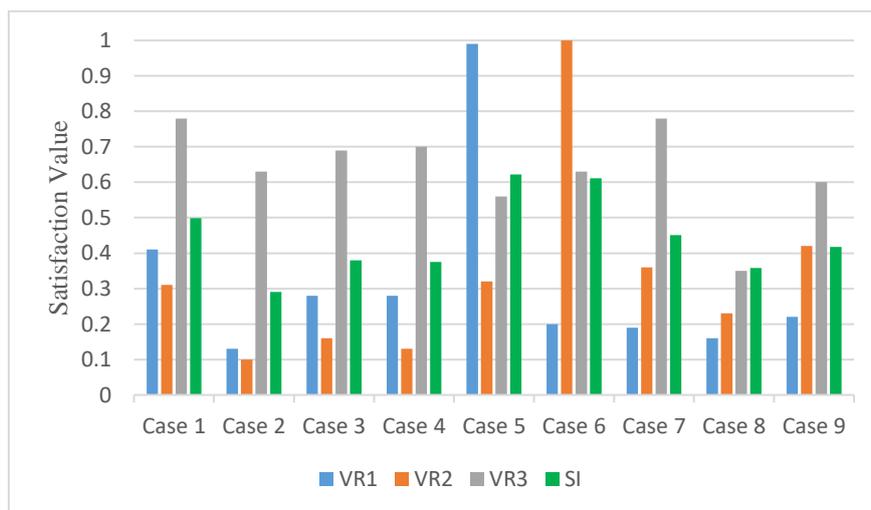
Building name	Environment requirement						Economic requirement	Social requirement						
	I <sub>1</sub>	I <sub>2</sub>	I <sub>3</sub>	I <sub>4</sub>	I <sub>5</sub>	I <sub>6</sub>	I <sub>7</sub>	I <sub>8</sub>	I <sub>9</sub>	I <sub>10</sub>	I <sub>11</sub>	I <sub>12</sub>	I <sub>13</sub>	I <sub>14</sub>
Burj Khalifa			×	×							×			

Princess tower			×				×		×					×
23 Marina			×											×
Elite Residence			×											×
Uptown Tower	×	×			×	×						×	×	
The Torch			×			×								×
DAMAC Heights			×											
Ocean Heights			×					×					×	×
21st Century Tower			×						×					×

562

563 Following the measurement of the *SI* for case studies with the MIVES approach, the results are  
564 analysed to prove the reliability and the accuracy of the results as well as *SI* quantification of  
565 each case study. For this purpose, the sustainability and performance requirement for each  
566 alternative is presented in Fig. 18.

567 From Figure 18 and Table 12, it can be concluded that *SI* of the alternatives ranged  
568 from 0.29 for case 2 with the lowest *SI* and 0.62 for case 5 with the highest *SI* is a balanced  
569 requirement weight set ( $\alpha (R_i) = 0.33; i = 1, 2, 3$ ). The results demonstrate the potential for  
570 further improvement of sustainability performance in RS in Dubai under this investigation.



571

572

Fig.18. Requirements values and *SI* for the case studies.

573 In detailed, it was attempted to investigate the MIVES-based assessment method to  
574 evaluate the sustainability of nine RSs in Dubai to confirm the appropriateness and strength of  
575 the method. In this evaluation, the following results have been identified:

- 576 • Sustainability assessment of nine case studies were analyzed by this approach and it  
577 was concluded that the social indicator should be further improved and developed. It is  
578 also possible to add new criteria to the decision-making tree relating to the design and  
579 construction aspects.
- 580 • In this paper, social indicators have been given the highest weights and case study 5  
581 performed better in terms of sustainability. In general, the results of case studies have  
582 shown that the multi-criteria approach for the majority of RSs in Dubai have a  
583 sustainability performance in the range of  $0.29 < SI < 0.62$ .
- 584 • Case study 2 (Princess Tower) obtained the lowest *SI* (0.291) and case study 5 (Uptown  
585 Tower) the highest *SI* (0.622) as case study 2 was mainly designed and constructed in  
586 2012 but case study 5 was built in 2022. Since case study 2 was constructed in 2012,  
587 the dimensions of sustainability were less important than in recent years however, this  
588 building was built with all the usual design and structural considerations.
- 589 • The results of the above-studied assessments can be a useful tool for the construction  
590 and maintenance of existing and future RSs. This is especially important in Dubai, as it  
591 has seen an increase in population and construction of RS in recent years. It should be  
592 noted that some indicators, for instance, in the economic field, have included cost  
593 estimates in this paper. This was required for the application of the method and the  
594 latest data were considered.
- 595 • Since amongst other factors, designers should consider buildings to meet the social  
596 needs of residents, the use of surveys and interviews in identifying the essential social

597 needs of residents is considered an important step. It is therefore important to focus on  
598 the shortcomings, main gaps and the disadvantages of previous RS in this regard.

- 599 • Some of the limitations of this paper include the following: the demolition phase of the  
600 building life cycle is not considered for the case studies and this phase can be considered  
601 for future buildings. In addition, the value functions in this research are defined based  
602 on the case studies. This can be adapted by modifying the graph shape of value function  
603 for other buildings.

## 604 **Conclusion**

605 This paper has focused about evaluation of RS considering the three dimensions of sustainable  
606 development. Previous studies have examined RS in most cases from the two aspects of  
607 sustainability namely the environmental and economic dimensions but less on the social aspect.  
608 Thus, in the literature review there are limited sources, which have used a coherent, systematic  
609 and flexible method to evaluate all sustainability criteria of RS.

610 In this paper, a model based on the MIVES method was presented for sustainability  
611 analysis and decision-making. This model will help decision-makers to design and construct  
612 more sustainable RS for the future in Dubai. There is room for improving the sustainability of  
613 future HRBs. In order to achieve this, the multi-criteria approach used in this research, can be  
614 a useful tool to use for the design and construction of future RS. The model can be used to  
615 evaluate the overall sustainability of RS using the strategy of value functions. The objective of  
616 this paper was to investigate the MIVES-based assessment method to evaluate the  
617 sustainability of nine HRBs in Dubai. This was to confirm the appropriateness and strength of  
618 the method used and the evaluation and results of the nine case studies in Dubai show that the  
619 majority of HRBs in this paper have a sustainability performance in the range of  $0.29 < SI <$   
620  $0.62$ .

621 In order to create a balance of sustainability, a requirement tree with eight criteria and  
622 fourteen indicators with different weightings has been used. This tree defines different  
623 indicators of products or process to be assessed. The important point is that while the weights  
624 reflect a specific evaluation but at the same time, these weights can also be used for the  
625 calibration and simulation of different social, economic and environment conditions without  
626 changing the tree structure. In later studies, more criteria and indicators can be defined for the  
627 requirement tree.

628 It is concluded that the same process can be carried out with the value functions and this model  
629 can be applied to most RS's evaluation. The proposed model can also be used reliably with  
630 other boundary conditions to achieve similar results. This can be carried out by adapting the  
631 weight distribution and value function parameters. To this end, some indicators and weights  
632 should be adjusted to different location's characteristics and requirements. Therefore, this  
633 paper presents a flexible and customizable model as a specific approach to the design and  
634 evaluation of RS for future research. Finally, MIVES model can also be reliably used with  
635 other boundary conditions to obtain better results by adapting the weights distribution and the  
636 value function parameters.

### 637 **Acknowledgements**

638 The authors want to acknowledge the kind support offered by the Department of Civil and  
639 Environmental Engineering at Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya. Maria del Mar Casanovas  
640 Rubio is a Serra Hünter Fellow.

### 641 **Data Availability Statement**

- 642 • Some or all data, models, or code generated or used during the study are available in a  
643 repository online as shown below in accordance with funder data retention  
644 policies (<https://www.mdpi.com/2071-1050/3/1/35>;  
645 <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S095006181200222X>;  
646 <https://ascelibrary.org/doi/epdf/10.1061/%28ASCE%29CO.1943-7862.0000419>).

647 **Notation list**

648 The following symbols are used in this paper:

649  $A$  = Total area of the room surfaces: ceiling, floor, walls and windows ( $m^2$ );

650  $ADF$  = Azure data factory;

651  $AW$  = Net glazed area of the window ( $m^2$ );

652  $dB$  = Decibel;

653  $DCv$  = Decrease concavely;

654  $DCx$  = Decrease convexly;

655  $DL$  = Decrease linear;

656  $DS$  = Decrease S-shape;

657  $GFA$  = Gross floor area;

658  $ICv$  = Increase concavely;

659  $IS$  = Increase S-shape;

660  $j$  = the value of the ordinate for point  $j$ , in the former case where  $q > 1.0$ ;

661  $M$  = Variable  $M$  is a factor that ensures that the value function will remain within the range of  
662  $(0.0 - 1.0)$ ;

663  $N$  = The total number of indicators;

664  $P$  = The average reflectance of room surfaces i.e. walls, floors, ceilings;

665  $q$  = The shape factor that defines approximation;

666  $R$  = The value that determines the shape of the value function;

667  $R_1$  = Environmental requirement;

668  $R_2$  = Economic requirement;

669  $SI$  = Sustainability index;

670  $S_{i,x}$  = The score of alternative  $x$  that is under assessment, with respect to indicator  $i$  under  
671 consideration, which is between  $S_{min}$  and  $S_{max}$ ;

672  $S_{max}$  = Maximum satisfaction;

673  $S_{min}$  = Minimum satisfaction;

674  $T$  = Diffuse visible transmittance of the glazing;

675  $V_C$  = The total weights assigned to the criteria;

676  $V_I$  = The total weights assigned to the indicator;

677  $v_i(S_{i,x})$  = The value of the alternative  $x$  with respect to a given indicator  $i$ ;

678  $V_R$  = The total weights assigned to the requirement;

679  $\alpha_i$  = The weights assigned to the requirement;

- 680  $\beta_i$  = The weights assigned to the criteria;  
681  $\gamma_i$  = The weights assigned to the indicators;  
682  $\theta$  = The angle of visible sky ( $^\circ$ );

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