

Advanced and Indirect Mitigation (AIM) Platform

Meeting Minutes – October 18, 2023

An initiative jointly developed by:



Gold Standard[®]

The Advanced and Indirect Mitigation (AIM) Governing Committee

October 18, 2023 | GC Meeting #8

Attendees:

Governing Committee Members:

- Alexia Kelly (High Tide Foundation)
- Charles Hernick (Amazon)
- Chris Davis (Amazon)
- Dan Smith (Unaffiliated)
- Derik Broekhoff (SEI)
- Devon Lake (Meta)
- Kelley Kizzier (Bezos Earth Fund)
- Lisa Spetz (H&M Group)
- Pierre Bloch (VCI/SustainCERT)
- Tim Juliani (WWF)

Invited Observers:

- Michael Macrae (GHGP)
- Brad Schallert (Winrock International)
- Chelsea Su (Winrock International)
- Candace Vinke (Verra)
- Laura Hutchison (RMI)
- Ingrid Irigoyen (ZEMBA)
- Christoph Wolff (SFC)

AIM Organizers:

- Kim Carnahan (GMA)
- Owen Hewlett (GS)
- Verena Radulovic (C2ES)
- Daniel Magrath (GS)
- Sam Pearl-Schwartz (GMA)

Logistics

Open call for additional participants in the drafting groups.

First systems-based drafting group Oct 31st, 10am EST

Next association with value chain drafting group TBD

Principles have been posted on the AIM website and LinkedIn

Notes/Substantive Discussion:

SBTi call for evidence on market-based mechanisms:

- General alignment from the GC that the more we can craft one good survey that can be applicable to the largest audience, rather than have multiple surveys from lots of different groups/initiatives, the better.
- AIM platform organizers will follow up on details of the survey the week of October 23rd
- Request to contact [@Sam Pearl Schwartz](#) if you manage or want to suggest membership body we can add to our survey distribution list

Association with Value Chain: Brad presented the current draft to the GC

- Most discussion focused on the clothing manufacturing example. If a clothing retailer is investing in a new boiler to reduce emissions for the whole plant, but they only buy 5% of the output, how to properly claim and report that. Want to make sure the retailer gets credit for the emissions reductions
 - o Noted that a similar situation could occur in the electricity sector.
 - o Potential solution using SFC guidance. Under SFC guidance, the right to claim for a low-emission transport service is with the person who pays for reduction, while the other customers get an industry average (disproportionate allocation of emissions). This model should work for the textile/electricity sector as well, although there may be some time-boundedness to it.
- Some GC members asked what a region means in the context of AIM guidance.
 - o General alignment that what geographic matching should be will likely vary by sector and by market penetration. For SAF at low market penetration, there likely should be no geographic region. The agricultural sector on the other hand needs a more specific regional boundary.

Systems-based drafting: Owen introduced systems at a high level and discussed possible models for AIM

What are Systems? High-Level Definition and Components



A system is a managed & coordinated, third party (i.e. to the reporting companies) approach to the MRV, assurance, tracking, allocation of emissions attributes.

It represents a collection of components that could be delivered in a number of ways, e.g:

- By a new system created for the purpose (for e.g. SABA)
- By an existing system that adds the components for the purpose (for e.g. FSC, Fair Trade)
- By a landscape or sourcing area platform (for e.g. in FLAG sector)

Core components, for e.g. governance, registry, standards setting/approvals, MRV and assurance, oversight, safeguarding principles etc

TBD could rely on existing platforms, such as ISEAL

AIM components, for e.g. specific approaches to emissions accounting and assurance, allocation methods etc

Built to reflect other AIM workstreams currently in drafting

- GC discussed the rationale for having a system that just approves programs (ISEAL) vs puts a label on a credit (ICVCM)
 - o Rationale for ICVCM is that some systems might be approved as a governance program, but not all the methodologies are approved to issue credits.
 - o General agreement that since AIM is likely going to be approving systems that are more sectoral in focus, there may not be a need for credit/methodology level approval
- GC also discussed where AIM systems guidance fits into the existing ecosystem, and where is the gap. The question arose of whether AIM systems-based guidance should be applied by GHGP or SBTi or stand on its own.