

Advanced and Indirect Mitigation (AIM) Platform

Meeting Minutes – February 28, 2024

An initiative jointly developed by:



Gold Standard[®]

The Advanced and Indirect Mitigation (AIM) Governing Committee

February 28, 2024 | GC Meeting #11

Attendees:

Governing Committee Members:

- Alexia Kelly (High Tide Foundation)
- Charles Hernick (Amazon)
- Dan Smith (Unaffiliated)
- Devon Lake (Meta)
- Kai Nino Streicher (VCI/SustainCERT)
- Tim Juliani (WWF)
- Cynthia Cummis (Deloitte)
- Peter Skovly (Maersk)
- Elena Schmidt (RSB)
- Kelley Kizzier (Bezos Earth Fund)

Invited Observers:

- Brad Schallert (Winrock International)
- Candace Vinke (Verra)
- Ingrid Irigoyen (ZEMBA)
- Eryazici, Ibrahim (Dow)
- Laura Hutchinson (RMI)
- Christoph Wolff (SFC)

AIM Organizers:

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

Notes/Substantive Discussion:

Guiding Principles:

- All present GC members voted for adoption
- Follow up emails sent for those members who were not present to vote via email.

AIM Criteria:

- Organizers presented eight draft criteria for discussion

1) Association with value chain

- Subgroup working on drafting

2) Value chain interventions cannot be reported in a higher quantity than they could have been physically deployed

- Two prevailing opinions in the GC on this criterion. One group that largely approves, and one group that felt it might be too restrictive - wanted to be able to buy as many certificates as needed to match emissions for a given sector, even if reaching zero might not be technologically possible.
- Need to clarify the role of negate CI products. Can't go below zero

3) The reporting company must own the right to report the emissions profile or emissions reductions associated with the intervention.

- No major comments on this criterion

4) Value chain interventions must lead to emissions lower than what is required by regulation.

- General agreement for this criterion, but some questions on specifics
 - o Need to define enforcement of regulation. Lots of regulation that are not enforced
 - o Regulations that apply to a system as a whole (EU ETS) vs regulations that apply to a specific commodity (RFNBOs)
- AIM Organizers will come to next GC call having thought about these more closely

5) Placeholder for any other proposed additionality criterion

- Group seems to be leaning towards removing this, but didn't make a firm decision in this meeting

6) Appropriate double claiming/co-claiming

- General agreement with this criterion, but need to clarify the appropriate vs not appropriate instances

- need to clarify value chain stages – (impact layers in VCI). There’s possibility for co-claiming but if you're fulfilling the same function in the value chain you can't claim the same reduction

6) Vintage requirements

- lots of questions and discussions about vintage. Seemed like the group was leaning towards more flexibility rather than less given challenges
 - maybe start with some general guidance and then after AIM gains more experience you make it more prescriptive. Might make sense given sectoral differences

7) Interventions must apply sound stakeholder engagement practices and social and environmental safeguards to mitigate harmful effects and maximize intervention outcomes.

- General agreement, AIM organizers will pull from ISO standards for sustainability for language

Programmes Update:

- Owen presented an update on the Programmes-based drafting group. This document will be on hold until after the AIM criteria are completed because of how the programmes document will next under the Criteria

Looking forward to the next GC call:

- AIM organizers are aiming to present mostly finalized AIM criteria so they can be released for public comment
- AIM organizers will present a complete draft of the association with value chain output
- AIM organizers will start working on a glossary for the Standard and Guidance package