

Cross-sectoral Adaptation Criteria

Source Metadata

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EU Taxonomy Definition

The EU Taxonomy defines climate adaptation as activities that either substantially reduce the risk of adverse climate impacts on the activity itself (adapted activities) or provide solutions that substantially reduce climate risk for other activities, people, nature, or assets (enabling activities). Cross-sectoral adaptation criteria apply across all economic sectors and define the methodology for climate vulnerability and risk assessment that any adaptation-aligned activity must follow. The 2026 revision harmonizes the adaptation framework with the European Climate Risk Assessment (EUCRA) published by the European Environment Agency.

Technical Screening Criteria Summary

All adaptation activities must perform a robust climate vulnerability and risk assessment following Appendix A of the Climate Delegated Act. This requires identification of physical climate risks (acute: floods, storms, wildfires; chronic: heat stress, sea level rise, water scarcity) using climate projections for 10-30 year horizons under RCP 4.5 and RCP 8.5 scenarios. Activities must implement adaptation solutions that materially reduce identified risks without increasing risk to other people, nature, or assets. Adaptation solutions must be monitored through measurable indicators. The 2026 revision introduces standardized climate risk screening tools and requires alignment with national adaptation strategies where available.

Do No Significant Harm (DNSH)

Adaptation activities must not significantly harm mitigation (no lock-in of high-carbon infrastructure), water (adaptation solutions must not compromise water quality or availability), circular economy (infrastructure materials must meet recyclability requirements), pollution (adaptation infrastructure must not increase pollutant releases), and biodiversity (nature-based adaptation solutions must enhance rather than degrade ecosystem services).

LATAM Relevance

Climate adaptation is critical for LATAM given the region's high vulnerability to climate impacts — including glacial retreat in the Andes, Caribbean hurricane intensification, and Amazon drought cycles. European climate finance flowing to LATAM adaptation projects increasingly requires EU Taxonomy-aligned risk assessment methodologies. The EUCRA framework provides a benchmark that LATAM countries can adapt to tropical and equatorial climate risk contexts.

Colombia Green Finance Taxonomy Alignment

The TVC includes climate adaptation as a core objective with its own activity criteria. Alignment is moderate — Colombia's framework uses IDEAM climate scenarios and national vulnerability assessments rather than the EU's RCP-based methodology. The TVC's adaptation criteria are less prescriptive on risk assessment methodology but cover similar hazard categories relevant to Colombian geography (flooding, landslides, drought).

Cleantech Taxonomy Crosswalk

Maps to Cleantech Taxonomy sector XS (Cross-Sectoral) — node XS-ADP (adaptation framework). This node serves as a methodological reference for adaptation-tagged activities across all other Cleantech Taxonomy sectors. Cross-references with AF (AFOLU) for nature-based adaptation and WW (Water) for water-related climate resilience.

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