

MDB Taxonomy Alignment

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Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) represent the single largest source of structured impact capital available to climate startups in emerging markets. Aligning a SUI to MDB taxonomies is the key that unlocks access to IFC, IDB Invest, ADB, AIIB, and EBRD investment pipelines. This page explains what alignment means, what it requires, and how to achieve it.

Why MDB Taxonomy Alignment Matters

MDBs collectively deploy over \$50 billion annually in climate finance. Each MDB has its own impact measurement framework, but these frameworks share a common structure: they require investments to demonstrate "substantial contribution" to defined environmental or social objectives, and they use standardised taxonomies to assess this contribution. A startup that cannot map its impact to these taxonomies is effectively invisible to MDB investment teams.

The Key MDB Taxonomies

IFC AIMM (Anticipated Impact Measurement and Monitoring)

IFC's AIMM is a 100-point scoring system covering 29 sectors. It assesses impact across two dimensions: "Effects on People and Planet" (direct impact of the investment) and "Market Creation" (systemic change the investment triggers).

How SUI maps to AIMM:

- SUI specificity + quantifiability maps to AIMM's "How Much" assessment under Effects on People and Planet
- SUI attribution maps to AIMM's "Contribution" indicator
- SSOT verifiability maps to AIMM's "Risk" dimension — verified data reduces impact risk score
- SUI scalability maps to AIMM's Market Creation dimension — a replicable unit demonstrates market transformation potential

Minimum AIMM score for IFC investment: Typically 40+ out of 100. A startup with a well-defined, verified SUI can reasonably expect to score 50–65 on AIMM, placing it in the strong-impact investment category.

IDB Invest / IDB Lab

IDB Invest (the private sector arm of the Inter-American Development Bank) uses its own "Development Effectiveness Matrix" (DEM) alongside alignment to the IDB Group's 2025–2030 Strategic Framework. For Latin American climate startups, IDB alignment is often the highest-priority MDB target.

IDB focus areas most relevant to SUI-bearing startups:

- Climate Action: mitigation and adaptation solutions in agriculture, energy, water, cities
- Productive Capacity: technology companies improving agricultural productivity
- Sustainable Infrastructure: EV charging, renewable energy access

EU Taxonomy (European Sustainable Finance)

The EU Taxonomy defines six environmental objectives and specifies technical screening criteria for economic activities that make a "substantial contribution" to each objective. While originally designed for EU-based companies, EU Taxonomy alignment has become a global standard signal, particularly for companies seeking European institutional investor capital.

Most relevant EU Taxonomy objectives for CTH portfolio companies:

- Climate Change Mitigation — GHG emissions avoidance or removal
- Climate Change Adaptation — building resilience to climate impacts
- Sustainable use of water and marine resources
- Transition to a circular economy

The Alignment Matrix: SUI to MDB Taxonomies

SUI Element	AIMM (IFC)	DEM (IDB)	EU Taxonomy	TNFD
Outcome domain + IRIS+ code	Sector assignment, Effects indicator	Development outcome indicator	Environmental objective	TNFD metric
Baseline + counterfactual	Contribution score	Additionality assessment	DNSH assessment	Nature dependency mapping
SUI magnitude + unit	Scale score (How Much)	Quantified impact	Technical screening criteria value	Disclosure metric value
SSOT verification	Risk dimension (reduced)	Monitoring plan	Third-party verifier sign-off	Data quality rating
Scalability across applications	Market Creation score	Catalytic potential	Enabling activity assessment	Portfolio exposure mapping

Practical Steps for MDB Alignment

1. **Choose your primary MDB target** based on geography and sector (IDB for Latin America, IFC for global, ADB for Asia-Pacific)
2. **Download the MDB's impact methodology document** and identify which indicators map to your SUI
3. **Complete a self-scoring exercise** using the MDB's scoring rubric — this becomes your AIMM pre-screening document
4. **Identify gaps:** Which AIMM/DEM indicators does your SUI not yet address? Are there data collection or verification gaps?
5. **Engage the MDB's SME or startup desk** with your SUI specification document and self-scoring as a conversation starter — MDB investment officers appreciate founders who speak their taxonomy language

CTH Support for MDB Alignment

CleantechHUB maintains relationships with IDB Lab's Colombia team, IFC's Latin America advisory desk, and the Climate Finance Partnership intermediaries operating in the region. CTH portfolio startups with verified SUIs receive facilitated introductions to these networks as part of the VRF programme. The verified SUI specification document serves as the primary conversation-starter document for these introductions.

Continue to Chapter 5: [Case Studies](#) — the SUI in practice with Becaps and MubOn.

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