

GROUPE DE LA BANQUE AFRICAINE  
DE DÉVELOPPEMENT

## Guidelines

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### Activity types under the Adaptation Benefits Mechanism

#### I. BACKGROUND

1. The ABM aims to mobilize public and private sector funding to scale up adaptation action and contribute to closing the significant adaptation finance gap. To this end, it is crucial that ABM activities focus on addressing negative impacts of climate change and support activities which increase the resilience of the most vulnerable and/or reduce climate-related risks.
2. To clearly distinguish adaptation to climate change from other purposes such as general development, the classification of ABM activity types defines types of adaptation activities based on weather and climate parameters, and their related impacts. The typology is built on a three-level approach: the highest level differentiates between the two main manifestations of climate change - sudden extreme events and slow onset events. The mid-level describes the climate parameter causing the effect: precipitation, wind, temperature, and the lowest level defines the negative impacts to which humans need to adapt.
3. At its 15th meeting, the ABM EC adopted the “Guidelines on activity types under the Adaptation Benefits Mechanism”, including an Annex on the “ABM adaptation activities typology” upon recommendation by the ABM Methodology Panel, as contained in this document.

#### II. OBJECTIVES

4. The “ABM adaptation activities typology” clusters adaptation activities which yield comparable Adaptation Benefits (ABs) and provides guidance to both project developers and climate finance providers to understand what kind of activities are conceivable under the ABM. Potential ABM activity developers can thus easily identify approved ABM methodologies suitable for their climate change related problem.

### III. DEFINITIONS

5. Sudden extreme events are events in which the value of a weather or climate variable exceeds (or falls below) a threshold value near the upper (or lower) ends of the range of observed values of the variable. Relevant variables include, inter alia, temperature, precipitation, windspeed, humidity and sunshine.

6. Slow onset events are due to incremental changes occurring over many years or an increased frequency or intensity of recurring weather events. Relevant slow onset events include, inter alia, sea level rise, increasing average temperatures, ocean acidification, glacial retreat, salinization, land and forest degradation, loss of biodiversity and desertification.

7. For more definitions of terms refer to the document “Glossary of terms for the Adaptation Benefits Mechanism”<sup>1</sup>.

### IV. GUIDELINES

8. Activity developers who wish to develop an ABM activity are asked to choose the type of activity and associated ABM methodology according to the “Typology of ABM Adaptation Activities” presented in Annex I. In case an activity type listed in the typology does not have an approved ABM methodology, activity developers can develop a methodology themselves and submit it to the ABM EC for approval. They may also request the ABM EC to develop a methodology for the activity type, which the ABM EC may undertake through its Methodology Panel and Roster of Experts, subject to availability of financial resources.

9. The “Typology of ABM Adaptation Activities” does not aspire to be exhaustive but rather covers the most relevant and common activity types based on state-of-the-art literature and practice. In case of doubt, stakeholders are invited to submit suggestions for improvement or questions, specifically regarding the classification, to the ABM secretariat. The ABM EC will revise the typology on a regular basis.

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**Annex I:** Excel table “Typology of ABM Adaptation Activities”

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<sup>1</sup> Document ABM EC/2022/15/11