



European
Commission

Environment and Climate Change Mainstreaming Facility

The Environment and Climate Change Mainstreaming Facility is a new support service that aims to systematically integrate environment and climate change issues in the decision-making process of EU geographical programmes and projects throughout their life cycle

Further reading:

For more information on the Rio markers, please refer to the EU Guidelines (Annex 8) and OECD guidance:

<http://capacity4dev.ec.europa.eu/public-environment-climate/minisite/2-tools-and-methods>

<http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/rioconventions.htm>

EU financial commitments to environment and climate change and the use of Rio-markers

What are the EU's financial commitments to climate change and biodiversity?

In 2013, the EU made a commitment – reinforced through the 2015 Paris climate agreement and the 2030 Agenda – to spend at least 20% of its budget for the period 2014-2020 (as much as €180 billion) on climate-change related actions. With respect to biodiversity, in 2012 the Union has endorsed the Hyderabad objective to ‘double total biodiversity-related international financial resource flows to developing countries’ by 2015 – and up to 2020 – against a baseline value of €167 million a year.

What are the Rio markers?

Rio markers are used for the statistical reporting of amounts of Official Development Assistance dedicated to the themes of the ‘Rio conventions’, i.e.

- Biodiversity
- Combating Desertification
- Climate change mitigation (i.e. reductions in or capture of greenhouse gas emissions)
- Climate change adaptation (including climate risk mitigation and vulnerability reduction)

How are Rio-markers used for estimating EU contributions to Rio-themes?

In line with the OECD-DAC's methodology, there are three possible values for the Rio markers. EuropeAid uses the following approach (applied to action documents):

 **if Biodiversity, Desertification or Climate change**

IS NOT TARGETED	RM=0	0% BUDGET
IS A SIGNIFICANT OBJECTIVE	RM=1	40% BUDGET
IS A PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVE	RM=2	100% BUDGET

For estimating an intervention's potential contribution to the climate change target, we consider the amounts associated with mitigation as well as adaptation, and retain whichever is largest.

What is required for a Rio convention theme to be considered an objective (either ‘significant’ or ‘main’) in an action document?

An activity can be marked as “main” (principal) when the objective (climate change mitigation, climate change adaptation, biodiversity, combating desertification) is explicitly stated as fundamental in the design of, or the motivation for, the activity. An activity can be marked as “significant” when the objective (climate change mitigation, climate change adaptation, biodiversity, combating desertification) is explicitly stated but is not the fundamental driver or motivation for undertaking and designing the activity.

As good practice, the following elements are recommended:

1. The theme is discussed as a relevant issue for the intervention in the context information;
2. An explicit intent to address the theme is expressed at the level of the objectives and/or expected results;
3. The intervention includes activities that clearly address issues in relation to the considered theme.

Note that vague references, for example to ‘sustainable agriculture’, ‘increased resilience’ or ‘sustainable energy’, are not sufficient to justify a Rio marker score of 1 or 2. For energy sector interventions with a strong focus on energy efficiency and/or renewable energies, we consider that climate change mitigation is targeted (as this is part of the overarching goals of EU support in these fields).