

DNSH Criteria for Climate Change Adaptation Objective

Guiding principles

An activity is considered as doing significant harm to the objective of climate change adaptation if:

- It fails to adequately assess, consider and manage its own climate change related physical risks, or
- It leads to greater adverse climate impacts (current or future) on itself, or on people, nature, or other assets;
- It directly infringes on the ability of itself, people, nature or other assets/activities to build resilience against climate change. Resilience in this context is defined as the ability of the activity, or other activities, to provide utility over time - in the short, medium, and long term - in the face of actual or potential climate change.

DNSH criteria

The two main criteria for this environmental objective are provided below:

1. Climate change related physical risks are identified and managed
1.1. Material climate-related physical risks to the activity are identified from Appendix I. 1.2. A climate risk and vulnerability assessment (CRVA) is conducted on these identified material risks. Guidance for implementing a CRVA is in Appendix II. The CRVA should include the following features: • It accounts for the current weather variability as well as for the future climate change, accommodated the uncertainties; • It is grounded in a comprehensive analysis of available climate data and projections, covering at least two relevant future scenarios; • It aligns, as far as practicable, with the expected operational lifespan of the activity. 1.3. The activity integrates the physical and non-physical adaptation efforts identified by the CRVA. • For existing activities, these adaptation measures may be implemented in phases over a period of up to five years. • For new activities, the required adaptation measures must be integrated during the design and construction stages.
2. System-level adaptation and resilience is not adversely affected
2.1. Ensure it does not increase the risk of adverse impact on other people, nature, and assets, or hamper adaptation elsewhere 2.2. Ensure that measures do not hinder local, sectoral, regional, or national adaptation strategies and plans 2.3. Preference given to 'Green', 'Blue', or nature-based solutions over conventional 'grey' infrastructure approaches