

# ENGAGING STAKEHOLDERS IN YOUR CARBON DIOXIDE REMOVAL RESEARCH



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Reflection Paper with Learnings & Recommendations from the CDRterra research programme

*“What we would have liked to know at the beginning of our research programme”*

## A Brief Readers' Guide

Stakeholder engagement in Carbon Dioxide Removal (CDR) research is a relatively recent but essential element in the development and governance of CDR methods. This Reflection Paper is designed for those who conduct research in the field of CDR and want to involve stakeholders. Whether planning a project, about to embark on one, or already engaged with stakeholders, this Reflection Paper will give guidance and inspiration. Based on our own research across the CDRterra programme, we present eight diverse case studies which involve stakeholder engagement and derived key learnings. In addition, a phase-by-phase guide summarizes what to consider for stakeholder engagement through the whole research project cycle.



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## Check it out to find

- Eight case studies from 6 research projects
- Key Learnings on CDR-related stakeholder engagements aggregated from the case studies, ranging from exchange with local farmers to workshops with Federal and EU policy-makers
- A practical phase-by-phase guidance for engagement for planning and implementing future engagements along the full cycle of a research project

## Synthesized Key Learnings

- Levels of CDR-related knowledge of stakeholders vary largely
  - When discussing CDR, start with basics to avoid misunderstandings and build a common ground
  - Use clear definitions and be consistent with terms
- CDR is an emerging and dynamic topic, in which many stakeholders are eager to engage
  - While CDR remains an abstract future topic for many, important steps are currently being taken in policy and decision-making
  - Ensure timely, relevant and user-tailored transfer of results, e.g. in dissemination materials, websites or videos
- Some stakeholder groups may hesitate to engage on topic of CDR
  - Find 'entry point', either through key stakeholders or pick them up on their specific framings and topics
  - Discussing future scenarios can help to facilitate a differentiated discussion of CDR and its role in achieving net-zero
  - Protect personal data well and offer non-public meetings
- Researchers have a special role in the CDR world
  - Make clear that the separation of research and particular interest is key
  - Pay attention to your role as a researcher and define your own independent framing
- Stakeholders value regional engagement
  - Consider region-specific suitable CDR methods, because stakeholders representation depends on it
  - Snowball sampling may be useful to involve local multipliers to identify and reach local stakeholders
  - Check whether all relevant perspectives are considered
- Last but not least: Don't forget about the basics of stakeholder engagement
  - A well planned engagement strategy with sufficient resources allocated (see phase-by-phase guide at the end of this document)
  - Continuous information flow and regular exchange
  - Openness to mutual learning
  - Time, trust and recognition are key for engagements



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