



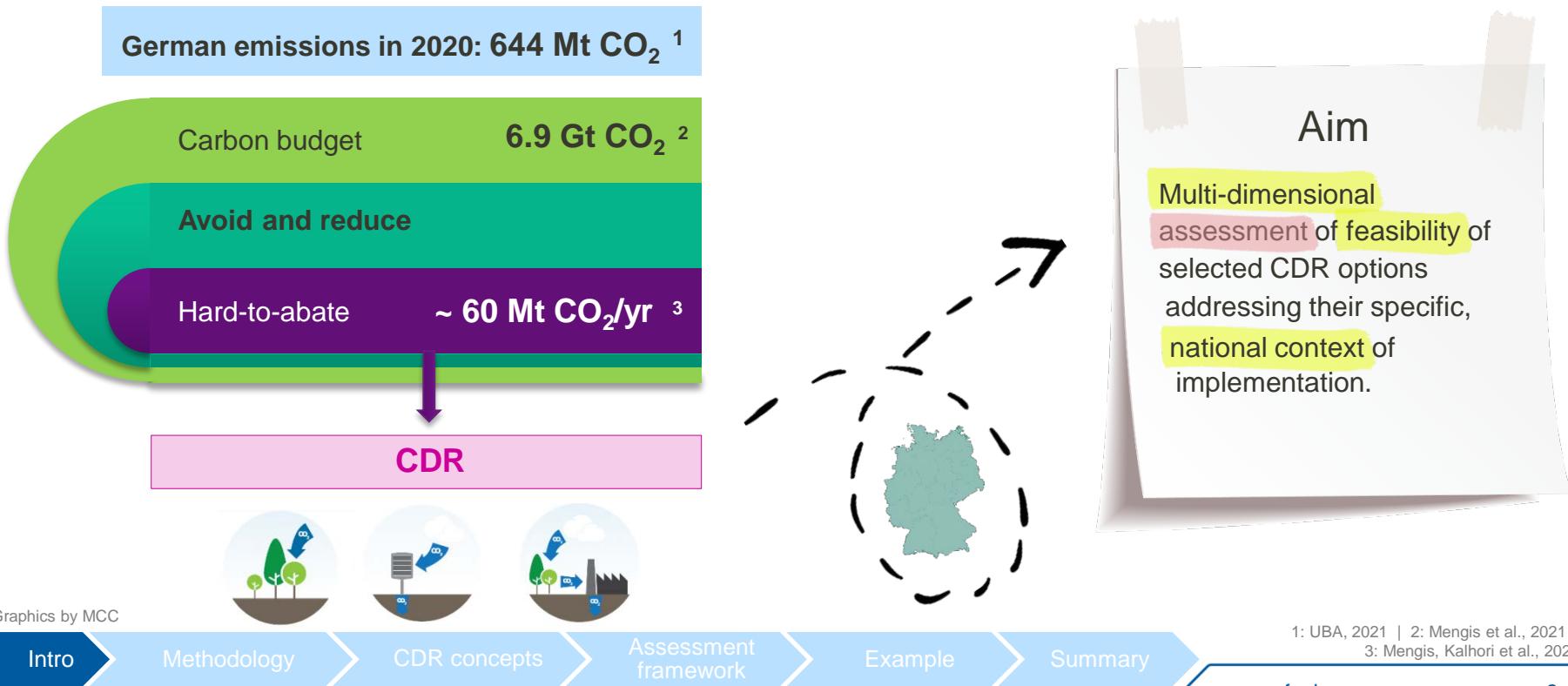
## Synergiepotenziale & Risiken

### Feasibility assessment of carbon dioxide removal (CDR) in Germany – comprehensive evaluation of selected options

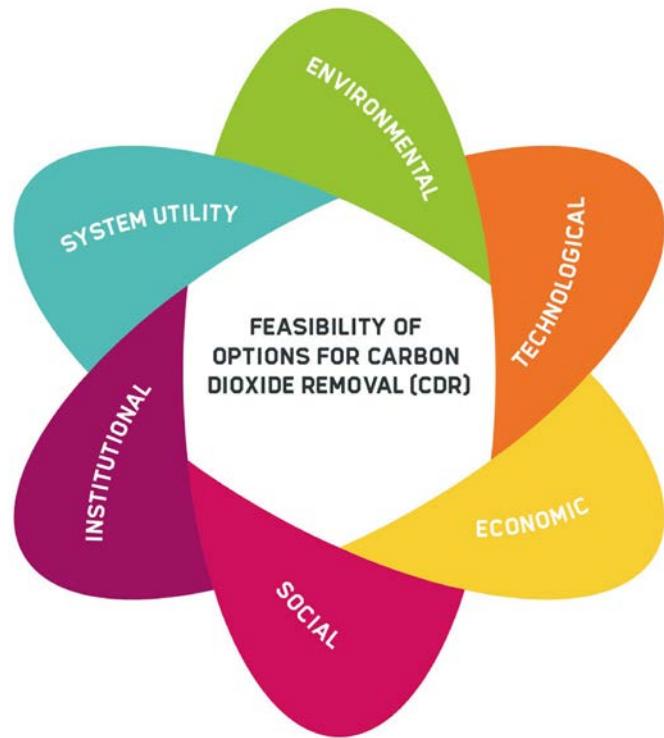
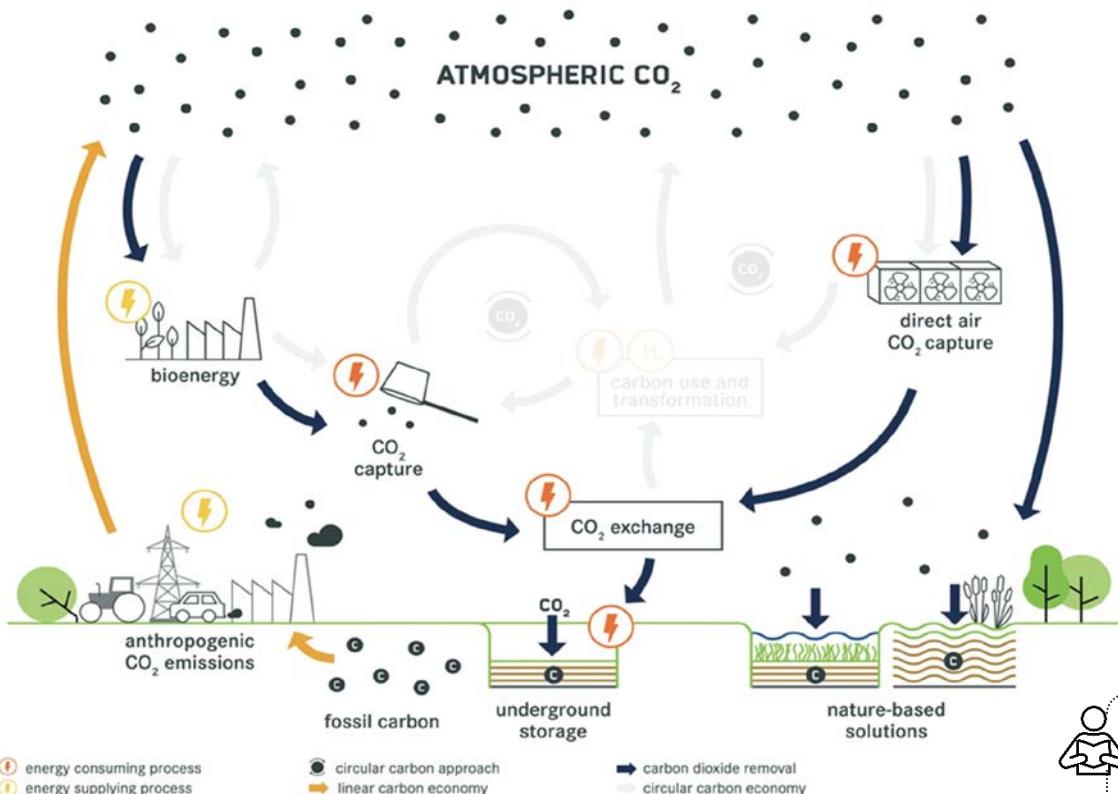
Johannes Förster & Malgorzata Borchers & Nadine Mengis

Daniela Thrän, Terese Thoni, Silke Beck, Klaas Korte, Erik Gawel, Till Markus, Romina Schaller, Yaxuan Chi, Nicolaus Dahmen, Roland Dittmeyer, Tobias Dolch, Christian Dold, Michael Herbst, Dominik Heß, Aram Kalhori, Ketil Koop-Jakobsen, Zhan Li, Andreas Oschlies, Thorsten Reusch, Imke Rhoden, Torsten Sachs, Cornelia Schmidt-Hattenberger, Angela Stevenson, Jiajun Wu and Christopher Yeates

# Motivation and aim of the study



# How can we know CDR is a good idea?



Förster et al. (2022) Framework for Assessing the Feasibility of Carbon Dioxide Removal Options Within the National Context of Germany. *Frontiers in Climate* 4:758628

# Selection of CDR options



Borchers, M. et al. (2022):  
Scoping carbon dioxide removal options for Germany—What is their potential contribution to Net-Zero CO<sub>2</sub>?  
*Front. Clim.* 4, art. 810343



## Units of CDR options



### Plants

BECCS or  
DACCs

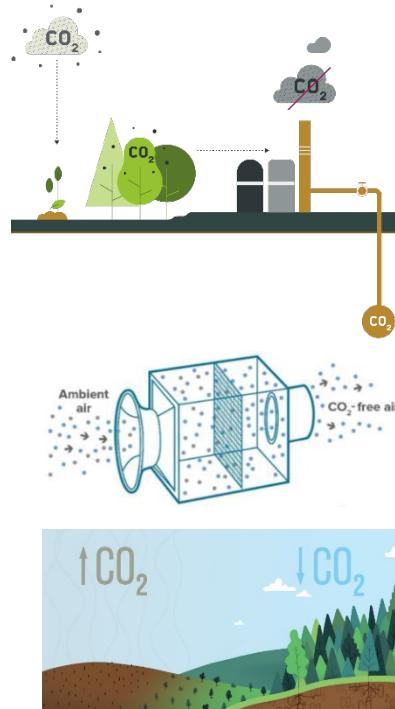


### Unit of area

e.g. 1 ha  
NSE & ERW

## Selection criteria

- Maturity level
- Availability of biomass
- Geophysical conditions
- ...



- BECCS: Wood combustion CHP
- BECCS: Slow pyrolysis for biochar
- BECCS: Gasification BtL
- BECCS: Mixed biomass biogas CHP
- BECCS: Paludiculture biogas CHP
- BECCS: Macroalgae biogas CHP
- DACCS: farms (centralized)
- DACCS: HVAC (decentralized)
- Enhanced Rock Weathering
- NSE: afforestation of cropland
- NSE: SOC - cover crops
- NSE: peatland rewetting
- NSE: seagrass meadows restoration

- Geological CO<sub>2</sub> storage

# Assessment framework



Förster et al. (2022) Framework for Assessing the Feasibility of Carbon Dioxide Removal Options Within the National Context of Germany. *Frontiers in Climate* 4:758628

- 32 interdisciplinary experts
- internal review
- workshop & meetings



Intro

Methodology

CDR concepts

Assessment framework

Example

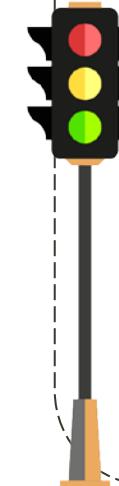
Summary

- 13 CDR options
- 6 dimensions
- 26 criteria
- 68 indicators (6-14 per dimen.)

	OPTION 1	OPTION 2	...
ENVIRONMENTAL			...
TECHNOLOGICAL			...
ECONOMIC			...
SOCIAL			...
INSTITUTIONAL			...
SYSTEM UTILITY			...

## EVALUATION SCALE

- traffic light system
- where and what effort for implementation



Effort -o-meter™

Likely medium hurdle

Uncertain,  
likely no  
hurdle

Likely no  
hurdle

Uncertain,  
likely large  
hurdle

Likely large  
hurdle

Carbon capture mechanism: CDR option:		hybrid (biological + technological)						chemical			biological					
		BECC (+S)						DACC (+S)		ERW	S GEOSTOR	PReW	agricAFF	agricCC	agricCR	SeaGr
		WCom	WGAs	WPyr	MxBG	PalBG	MABG	Farms	HVAC							
Systemic effects on climate	F1: CDR potential	F1.1 Max. feasible net CO2 emissions removal deployed by 2050	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	
	F1.2 Max. feasible 'near-term' net CO2 emissions removal	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	
	F1.3 Max. total sequestration potential between 2020 and 2050	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	
	F2: CO2 emissions avoidance potential (GtC potential)	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	
	F2.1 Max. of CO2 emissions avoided through deployment in 2050	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	
	F2.2 Max. CO2 emissions avoided in the 'near-term' through deployment	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	
	F3: Permanence	F3.1 Natural persistence of storage	seeGEO-STOR	seeGEO-STOR	D	seeGEO-STOR	seeGEO-STOR	seeGEO-STOR	seeGEO-STOR	seeGEO-STOR	D	D	D	D	D	
	F3.2 Risk of carbon loss due to climate change and/or natural disturbances	seeGEO-STOR	seeGEO-STOR	D	seeGEO-STOR	seeGEO-STOR	seeGEO-STOR	seeGEO-STOR	seeGEO-STOR	seeGEO-STOR	D	D	D	D	D	
	F3.3 Risk of carbon loss due to anthropogenic disturbances	seeGEO-STOR	D	D	seeGEO-STOR	seeGEO-STOR	seeGEO-STOR	seeGEO-STOR	seeGEO-STOR	seeGEO-STOR	D	D	D	D	D	
Environmental	F4: Verifiability	F4.1 Ability to confirm the amount of CO2 captured/avoided	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	
	F4.2 Ability to confirm the amount of CO2 stored	seeGEO-STOR	D	D	seeGEO-STOR	seeGEO-STOR	seeGEO-STOR	seeGEO-STOR	seeGEO-STOR	seeGEO-STOR	D	D	D	D	D	
	F4.3 Uncertainty of estimates for CO2 removal/avoidance	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	
	A1: Impact on air/atmosphere	A 1.1 Outdoor air quality (with an impact on human health)	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	
	A 1.2 GHG emissions related to land/sea use change	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	
	A 1.3 Net biophysical effect on local climate (different scales)	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	
	A 1.4 Net effects of audible noise on humans and ecosystems	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	
	A2: Impact on land and sea area (from land-use / sea-use changes)	A 2.1 Area demand and competition for other area uses (land and/or sea)	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	
	A 2.2 Biodiversity (ecosystems, species, genes)	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	
A3: Impact on water	A. 2.3 Soils (chemical and physical quality)	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	
	A 3.1 Ground water quality	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	
	A 3.2 Water demand / local water availability	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	
	A 3.3 Surface water quality	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	
	A 3.4 Marine water quality	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	

#### Abbreviations:

BECC- DACC	WCom	woody biomass feedstock for combustion with CHP	ERW	terr. enhanced rock weathering on agriculture soils
	WGAs	woody biomass feedstock for gasification for BtL production		
	WPyr	woody biomass feedstock for pyrolysis for biochar production		geological storage solutions
	MxBG	mixed biomass feedstock for biogas with CHP		rewetting of peatlands/organic soils
	PalBG	paludiculture feedstock for biogas with CHP		afforestation of croplands
	MABG	macroalgae feedstock for biogas with CHP		cover crops on agricultural soils
	Farms	Direct Air Carbon Capture Farms		crop rotation on arable soils
	HVAC	DACC installed in heat, ventilation, air-conditioning (HVAC) systems		seagrass meadow restoration



## Systemic feasibility of CDR options:

- Options involving carbon capture (S) could technically have a significant contribution to carbon removal (BECCS 0.5-29.9 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>/year and DACCS 15-16 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>/year)  
\*But: CCS is currently not allowed in Germany
- Options of natural sink enhancements (ecosystem restoration, cover crops, etc.) are expected to have smaller contributions to carbon removal (1.7-6.3 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>/year)  
\*But: potential for mitigating carbon emissions can be high (e.g. peatland restoration)

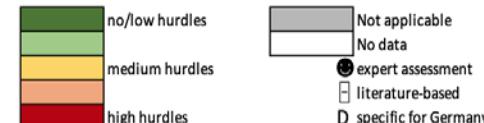
## Environmental feasibility of CDR options:

- BECCS with high demand for biomass can drive land-use change & negative effects
- Natural sink enhancement (ecosystem-based options) mainly beneficial for environment when assuming biodiversity safeguards & best management practices

Carbon capture mechanism:		hybrid (biological + technological)						chemical		biological						
		BECC (+S)						DACC (+S)		ERW	S	PReW	agricAFF	agricCC	agricCR	SeaGr
		WCom	WGAs	WPyr	MxBG	PalBG	MABG	Farms	HVAC		GEOSTOR					
Technological	B1: Technology efficiency/ Conversion efficiency	B1.1 Net energy demand vs. Provision	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	
	B1.2 CO2 removed per unit of energy produced/required	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	
	B2: Technology availability	B2.1 Technology Readiness Level (TRL)	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	
	B3: Infrastructure	B3.1 Compatibility of infrastructure	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	
	B4: Compatibility with the future energy system	B4.1 Effort of CO2 collection	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	
	B4.2 Access to low carbon energy sources	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	
Economic	C1: Market costs	C1.1 Marginal removal cost (€ per unit of carbon dioxide removed)	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	
	C1.2 Opportunity cost	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	
	C2: Dynamic cost efficiency	C2.1 Potential for cost reductions by technological progress	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	
	C2.2 Potential for economies of scale	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	
	C2.3 Contribution margin of jointly produced goods (/ tonne CDR)	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	
	C3: Transaction cost efficiency	C3.1 Public transaction costs	assessed in institutional dimension													
C4: External effects	C3.2 Private transaction costs	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	
	C4.1 Other external costs per unit of carbon dioxide abated/removed	assessed in environmental dimension														
	C4.2 External benefits	assessed in environmental dimension														
C5: Effects on domestic/regional economy	C5.1 Potential for domestic/regional value added	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	
	C5.2 Potential for domestic/regional employment	assessed in social dimension														
C6: Investment barriers	C6.1 Capital intensity	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	
	C6.2 Specificity of investment	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	
	C6.3 Revenue risk	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	

#### Abbreviations:

BECC-	WCom	woody biomass feedstock for combustion with CHP	ERW	terr. enhanced rock weathering on agriculture soils	no/low hurdles
	WGAs	woody biomass feedstock for gasification for BtL production		geological storage solutions	
	WPyr	woody biomass feedstock for pyrolysis for biochar production		rewetting of peatlands/organic soils	
	MxBG	mixed biomass feedstock for biogas with CHP		afforestation of croplands	
	PalBG	paludiculture feedstock for biogas with CHP		cover crops on agricultural soils	
	MABG	macroalgae feedstock for biogas with CHP		crop rotation on arable soils	
DACC	Farms	Direct Air Carbon Capture Farms	SeaGr	seagrass meadow restoration	high hurdles
	HVAC	DACC installed in heat, ventilation, air-conditioning (HVAC) systems			



## Technological feasibility of CDR options:

- Most CDR options are feasible from a pure technological perspective; largest technology gaps in DACC-technologies;
- High energy demand is major obstacle in particular for DACC(S) options  
→ competition for renewable energy sources

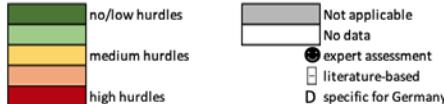
## Economic feasibility of CDR options:

- High investment barriers in particular for BECCS & DACCS;  
cost for DACCS may reduce when considering scaling effects
- Natural sink enhancements (ecosystem-based options) have lower investment barriers & lower marginal removal costs but potentially high opportunity costs

Carbon capture mechanism:		hybrid (biological + technological)								chemical			biological					
		BECC (+S)								DACC (+S)		ERW	S	PReW	agricAFF	agricCC	agricCR	SeaGr
		WCom	WGas	WPyr	MxBG	PalBG	MABG	Farms	HVAC				GEOSTOR					
Institutional	E1: Political maturity	E1.1 Placement within policy cycle	● D			● D	● D	● D	● D		● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D
	E2: Support for CDR within the current policy landscape	E2.1 Level of acceptance in policy debate	● D			● D	● D			● D			● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D
	E2.2 Government supported research on CDR options	E2.3 Inclusion of CDR options in existing national and/or regional climate policies	● D			● D	● D	● D	● D		● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D
	E3: Legal & regulatory feasibility	E3.1 Possible scale of legal conflicts	● D			● D	● D	● D		● D			● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D
	E3.2 Conformity with human rights	E3.3 Conformity with environmental laws and conservation requirements	● D			● D	● D	● D	● D				● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D
	E3.4 Conformity with climate laws	E3.5 Regulatory effort	● D			● D	● D			● D			● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D
	E4: Transparency and institutional capacity	E4.1 Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) system	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D			● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	
	E4.2 Integration of negative emissions from CDR in national emission reporting	D				● D								D	● D	● D	● D	
	E4.3 Integration of CDR in carbon market	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D				● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	
	E4.4 Adaptive & responsive management	D				● D				D				● D	● D	● D	● D	
	E4.5 Administrative demand	D				● D			● D				● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	
Social	D1: Public perception of CDR approaches and/or process	D1.1 Perceived risk of CDR measure	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D
	D1.2 Trust in process	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D
	D2: Social co-benefits	D2.1: Health	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D
	D2.2: Employment	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D
	D3: Inclusiveness / participation of the process	D3.1: Participation during different steps of the process	● D	● D	D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D
	D3.2: National dialogue/regional planning	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D
	D3.3: Transparency of process	● D	● D	D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D
	D4: Ethical considerations	D4.1: Discursive legitimization	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D
	D4.2: Intergenerational equity	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D
	D4.3: Ethical reservations (of resource use)	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D	● D
	D5: Social context	D5.1: Previous experience of large-scale development/infrastructure projects									● D	● D						
	D5.2: Local narrative										● D	● D						

#### Abbreviations:

BECC-	WCom	woody biomass feedstock for combustion with CHP	ERW	terr. enhanced rock weathering on agriculture soils
	WGas	woody biomass feedstock for gasification for BtL production	GEOSTOR	geological storage solutions
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	MABG	macroalgae feedstock for biogas with CHP	agricCR	crop rotation on arable soils
DACC	Farms	Direct Air Carbon Capture Farms	SeaGr	seagrass meadow restoration
	HVAC	DACC installed in heat, ventilation, air-conditioning (HVAC) systems		



## Institutional feasibility of CDR options:

- Technical options with CCS (BECCS & DACCS) limited by carbon storage ban in Germany
- Natural sink enhancements (ecosystem-based options) can be implemented within the existing institutions & regulations

## Social feasibility of CDR options:

- CCS with underground carbon storage perceived to have a rather high risk;
- Natural sink enhancements (ecosystem-based options) generally more accepted but competition for land has potential for conflict

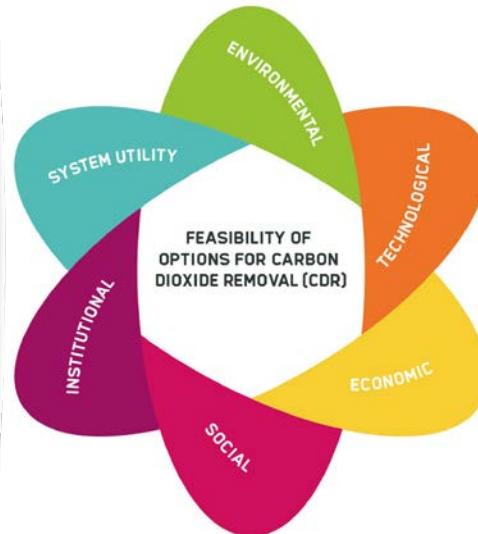
# Summary

## Selected CDR options for Germany:

- Description of CDR options based on criteria for implementation (factsheets)



Borchers, M. et al. (2022):  
Scoping carbon dioxide removal options for Germany—  
What is their potential contribution to Net-Zero CO<sub>2</sub>?  
*Front. Clim.* 4, art. 810343



## Assessment of CDR options for Germany:

- Identifies barriers but also „low-hanging fruits“
- Further assessments needed for including regional & local perspectives



Borchers, M., et al. (accepted) Comprehensive  
Assessment of Carbon Dioxide Removal Options for  
Germany. *Earth's Future*.



Förster et al. (2022) Framework for Assessing the Feasibility of  
Carbon Dioxide Removal Options Within the National Context  
of Germany. *Frontiers in Climate* 4:758628

- CDR options with higher removal potentials (BECCS & DACCS) face institutional, economic, technological and societal hurdles in particular linked to geological carbon storage (S)
- Ecosystem-based CDR options have lower implementation hurdles but show relatively small CO<sub>2</sub> removal potentials
- More context-specific assessments of CDR options are needed to guide national net-zero decision making

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Thank you for your attention!



Dr. Johannes Förster & Dr. Małgorzata Borchers & Dr. Nadine Mengis

UFZ Department Environmental Politics (UPOL) // UFZ Department Bioenergy (BEN) // GEOMAR - Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel

## Contact



johannes.foerster@ufz.de  
malgorzata.borchers@ufz.de  
nmengis@geomar.de

## Team & contributions

Małgorzata Borchers & Nadine Mengis & Johannes Förster  
Daniela Thrän, Terese Thoni, Silke Beck, Klaas Korte, Erik Gawel,  
Till Markus, Romina Schaller, Yaxuan Chi, Nicolaus Dahmen,  
Roland Dittmeyer, Tobias Dolch, Christian Dold, Michael Herbst,  
Dominik Heß, Aram Kalhor, Ketil Koop-Jakobsen, Zhan Li, Andreas  
Oschlies, Thorsten Reusch, Imke Rhoden, Torsten Sachs, Cornelia  
Schmidt-Hattenberger, Angela Stevenson, Jiajun Wu & Christopher  
Yeates

Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research GmbH – UFZ  
Permoserstraße 15 | 04318 Leipzig | Germany