



5 Principles for High-Quality Carbon Removal from Nature-Based Climate Solutions

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Carbon Direct (CD), whose current client base represents a significant emissions footprint in excess of 100 million tonnes of CO₂ per annum, has developed **5 Principles for High-Quality Carbon Removal from Nature-Based Climate Solutions**.

Additionality & Baselines. Additionality and accurate baseline setting have proven to be critical challenges to carbon crediting quality to date. Credited removals can only be considered high quality if they would not have occurred without the carbon removal payments. Baselines against which removals are estimated should be set conservatively to minimize risk of over-crediting.

Durability. High-quality projects have a low risk of stored carbon being re-released into the atmosphere either through voluntary (intentional) or involuntary (extreme weather events or other exogenous biotic or abiotic factors) reversal events. For a project to be judged durable by CD, it must have a low risk of loss for around half a century, have measures in place to minimize that risk, and account for that risk in its carbon estimates including the effects of climate change.

Leakage. High-quality projects have minimal risk of displacing activities that cause greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the project site to another site (including international), and account for any displacement in a conservative manner.

Carbon accounting method. High-quality projects quantify and monitor net carbon removal using repeatable and verifiable methods. Monitoring net removals requires accounting for all meaningful GHG fluxes associated with the project. In addition, all solutions must estimate project-specific uncertainty in removal estimates and do so in a conservative manner (to more likely underestimate than overestimate removals).

Do no harm. A high-quality solution must have a low risk of any material negative impacts on the surrounding ecosystems (including biodiversity, water, etc.) and local communities.

Who We Are

CD combines human and financial capital to scale carbon removal, reduction, and use to catalyze the negative emissions industry. We help our customers effectively draw down carbon from the atmosphere, and deploy investor capital into key carbon abatement and removal solutions. The mismatch of supply and demand for carbon removal is a global challenge, and supply of valid, verifiable, and durable CO₂ removal must grow. The chance to address this challenge through the synthesis of scientific and financial expertise is our opportunity. Through aggregating demand and building supply, we are fulfilling our mission to lower the cost of negative emissions and scale the industry.

Please [contact us](#) for further information on our advisory services and investment fund.