



The Global South
Carbon Dioxide Removal Coalition

Advancing EU climate goals through high integrity international CDR

July 2025

Promoting high-integrity
carbon dioxide removal
as a core component of the
EU's 2040 Climate Target.



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Executive Summary

To achieve climate neutrality by 2050, the EU will need to scale both domestic and international carbon dioxide removal (CDR). While the EU's 2040 Climate Target is commendably ambitious, current policy frameworks underutilise the potential of high-integrity CDR solutions emerging from the Global South.

This paper makes the case for integrating international CDR into the EU Climate Law. Data shows that Global South suppliers, though fewer in number, have already delivered more high-quality removals than their EU counterparts. These solutions are verifiable, permanent, and aligned with EU monitoring and reporting standards.

By formally recognising international CDR in the Climate Law and investing through mechanisms like Article 6.4 of the Paris Agreement, the EU **can scale global carbon removal capacity, support SDG-aligned local development, and ensure credibility and affordability in CDR markets.**

The EU has the opportunity to shape how the global CDR market develops, not just regionally but worldwide. Supporting Global South innovators is not charity, it is a strategic expression of climate leadership.

About the Global South Carbon Dioxide Removal Coalition

The Global South Carbon Dioxide Removal (GS CDR) Coalition is a network of leading carbon removal innovators from Africa, Latin America, Asia, and allied partners. Our members deliver high-integrity, durable CDR solutions that are ready to meet rigorous EU and global standards. We promote climate equity through verifiable removals that support the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Introduction

The Global South Carbon Dioxide Removal (GS CDR) Coalition welcomes the EU's continued leadership on climate action and supports the ambition of reducing net greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 90% by 2040.

THE GOAL

90%

Reduction net greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 90% by 2040, led by the EU's continued leadership on climate action.

THE DELIVERY

45%

Between 2022 and 2024, the Global South accounted for 45% of all carbon removals worldwide, four times more than the EU.

THE TARGET

1.5°C

All metrics revolve around the agreed 1.5 degree Paris Agreement limit of global warming to avoid complete climate collapse.

Our Coalition represents a group of leading Carbon Dioxide Removal (CDR) suppliers from the Global South. We promote the use of durable, high-quality CDR, such as biochar carbon removal (BCR), enhanced rock weathering (ERW), and direct air carbon capture and storage (DACCS). Our members deliver permanent carbon removals that are ready to meet the rigorous standards to be set under the Carbon Removals and Carbon Farming Regulation (CRCF) and that are widely applied in the voluntary carbon market.

All Coalition member projects are underpinned by transparent monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) protocols aligned with emerging EU and international frameworks, ensuring scientific rigor, traceability and durability of carbon removal. The GS CDR Coalition is happy to see that Commission is recognizing the role of international carbon markets in combatting climate change. However, we regret that the use of international carbon credits is only being seen as a flexibility tool to help EU countries meet their targets.

International credits are not merely a flexibility tool, but an essential component of scaling global carbon removal in time.

Global or EU, all carbon removals will be necessary to meet Net-Zero.

While emissions reduction should remain a top priority, carbon removals will be needed to address hard-to-abate emissions and achieve a Net-zero global economy by 2050.

The European Commission's impact assessment on the 2040 Climate Target estimates that the EU alone will require **447 Mt CO₂eq** of natural and technological carbon removals to reach climate neutrality by 2050. In fact, the most recent **State of Carbon Dioxide Removal Report (SCDR)** estimates that the international CDR market must remove 7 to 9 GtCO₂ per year in 2050, to keep global warming within the agreed 1.5 degree Paris Agreement limit.

SCDR ESTIMATES:

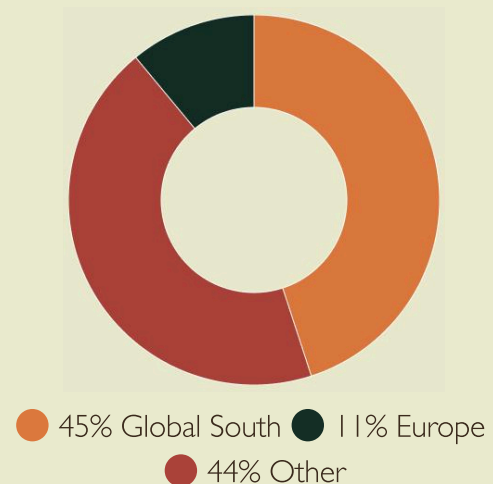
7-9 GtCO₂ per year

Must be removed to keep global warming within the 1.5 degree Paris Agreement limit.

Signals from the voluntary carbon market indicate that **the Global South is well positioned to fill this gap**, if it receives the right support. Data from CDR.fyi on carbon removals between 2022 and 2024 shows that, despite having fewer companies participating in the market, (17 vs. 70 companies in the EU), Global South-based suppliers have already delivered a greater volume of CDR, 244,786 tonnes compared to the EU's 57,005 tonnes. This early success demonstrates both the Global South's potential to scale CDR and recognition by today's leading CDR buyers of the comparative quality of solutions providers located in the global south.

The Global South removes 4x more CO₂ than the EU

Pie chart showing carbon removal delivered (in tonnes of CO₂) by region from 2022 to 2024. During this period, the Global South accounted for 45% of all global carbon removals.



* Source: Tier 1 global CDR volume and price data from CDR.fyi (dataset available upon request). Data refers to removals from 2022 to 2024.

At the same time voluntary markets alone are not sufficient to drive the CDR market. We cannot solely rely on voluntary net-zero corporate targets, especially in hard-to-abate industries. Without integration in regulated climate policy frameworks, such as the EU Climate Law the growth of the global CDR market risks stagnation. Recognition in the Climate Law is opportunity for the EU to play a strategic role in shaping how CDR develops globally.

Achieving transformative change in the Global South.

As billions in official development assistance, humanitarian aid, and climate finance have been cut over the past three years, the Global South faces growing budget shortfalls that threaten economic stability and climate progress. **Redirecting capital through international and European carbon markets, by enabling participation of high-quality Global South solutions, offers a powerful opportunity to fill this gap.** The use of increased financing via a market mechanism (such as the Paris Agreement Art. 6.4 Crediting Mechanism) can help overcome challenges faced by the typically aid-centric approach (e.g. insufficient, slow disbursement of funds that could create dependency).

The EU Climate Law is the missing link — a chance to shape how CDR scales globally, not just regionally.

Integrating high-integrity carbon dioxide removal (CDR) credits into the EU Climate Law provides a performance-based pathway for funding durable, verifiable removals beyond what traditional, and depleted, aid models can deliver. **Moreover, some CDR types provide a range of co-benefits that support United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs).** By incentivizing the purchase of permanent CDR credits from these regions, the EU can contribute to the emergence of resilient local economies, promote low-carbon development pathways, and support UN SDGs including no poverty (SDG 1), zero hunger (SDG 2), affordable and clean energy (SDG 7), and climate action (SDG 13).

By incentivizing the purchase of permanent CDR credits from these regions, the EU can contribute to these SDGs goals



Global South Suppliers Setting the Standard

InPlanet

Based in Brazil, is the first and only supplier of certified ERW credits in the world. Winner of the 2024 Keeling Curve Prize.

MATI Carbon

CDR supplier active in India, Tanzania, Zambia and the US, recently won USD 50 million under the XPRIZE carbon removal competition.

MASH Makes

Indo-Danish CDR supplier MASH Makes produces high-quality biochar (99%+ inertinite) and low-carbon biofuel, reducing the carbon intensity of shipping.

Exomad Green

Based in Bolivia, Exomad signed the world's largest biochar deal with Microsoft, a 10-year agreement to remove 1.24 million tonnes of CO₂.

Octavia Carbon

Kenyan-based DAC pioneer and XPRIZE finalist, awarded the 2025 Keeling Curve Prize for advancing scalable, geothermal-integrated DAC in the region.

Leveraging EU climate leadership for global impact.

Apart from contributing to global climate action, the EU also has a strategic opportunity to extend its climate leadership globally. Supporting international CDR through the EU Climate Law would:

I.

EU–GLOBAL SOUTH PARTNERSHIPS

Establish relationships between the EU and Global South to collaborate on CDR providing opportunities to lead the development of carbon and carbon removal markets worldwide.

II.

CONFIDENCE IN 6.4 CREDITS

Demonstrate confidence in the quality of CDR credits delivered through the Article 6.4 Paris Agreement Crediting Mechanism.

III.

BRUSSELS EFFECT

Encourage non-EU countries to adopt their own version of the CRCF, increasing the availability of high-quality carbon removals across the globe.

Finally, as pointed out by the European Scientific Advisory Board on Climate Change (ESABCC), the high costs of inaction and global climate change mean that it is in the EU's interest to support other countries in achieving their own climate goals.

Conclusion

International carbon removals are not a substitute for domestic action; they are a vital complement.

To achieve near- and long-term climate goals, the EU must invest in high-quality, science-backed solutions wherever they exist. The Global South is ready to deliver. With ERW, BCR, and DACCS solutions already demonstrating scale and integrity, now is the time for the EU to step up, channeling climate leadership into global carbon removal capacity that benefits both people and planet.