

Near and longer-term priorities for international governance of carbon dioxide removal

DISCUSSION PAPER | MAY 2026

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Abstract

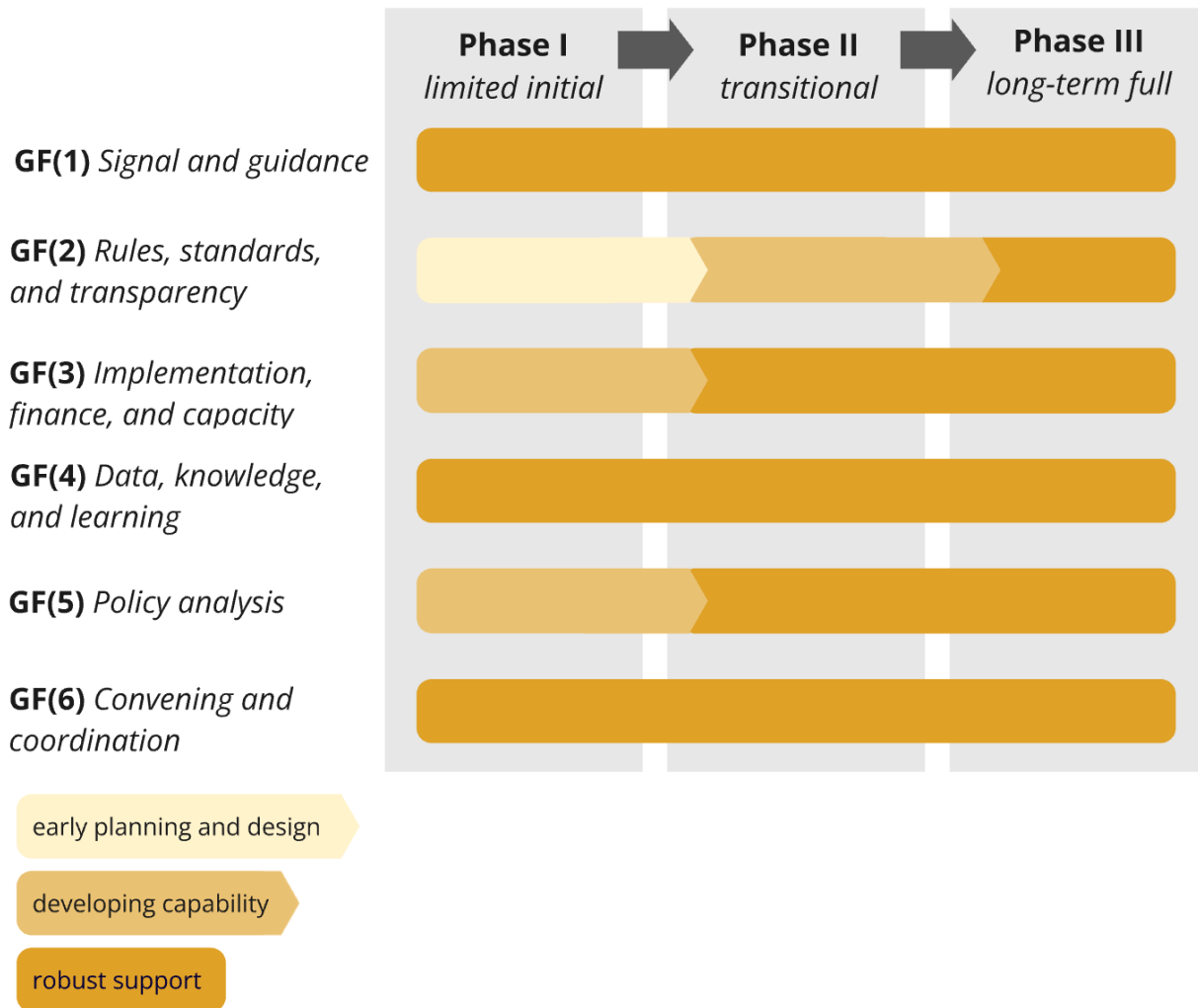
Carbon dioxide removal (CDR) encompasses a broad set of methods, which together—and in conjunction with emissions reductions—are essential for addressing climate change. This assessment of the current institutional landscape reveals that a governance gap exists. Because of urgency in scaling up CDR, we argue that now is the time to develop new institutional functions to facilitate the deployment of sustainable CDR to gigatonne scale. Examples of previous institutional innovations, as well as a framework of necessary governance functions, provide guidance for institutional design. Further, an array of nascent CDR initiatives have the potential to address important aspects of the governance gap, while missing others. We see an effective pathway, in which 1) an initial set of capabilities focused on data, coordination, and signalling is established, 2) in a transitional phase, additional functions—implementation and policy analysis—are phased in, and 3) in the longer term, the governance gap is filled with coordination of rules and standards. Transparency and engagement with diverse stakeholders throughout will be central to this process of building governance capacity. A regime of international organizations that encompasses the full scope of CDR methods would provide robust governance in the face of persistent change and uncertainty over the coming decades.

Read the full paper: [here](#)

Key findings:

- Meeting climate goals requires both rapid emissions reductions and deployment of CDR
- International governance would facilitate deployment of CDR
- Now is the time to fill the CDR governance gap
- Systematic assessment of governance functions gives insight on past and current initiatives
- Previous institutional innovations provide a playbook and show expanded scope over time
- Emerging CDR initiatives emphasise signalling and coordination
- Near-term priorities for CDR are data, coordination, and signalling
- Additional capabilities to develop in the longer term include rules, standards, and transparency

Proposed Progression of functional coverage for CDR governance across three phases of development.



A new institution dedicated to CDR governance would promote credibility and legitimacy for carbon removal while also systematically gathering lessons, good practice, and policy designs. This would comprehensively inform governments and other interested stakeholders about developments in the sector and provide practical information for supporting removals in their countries. In the near term it would provide a source of trusted information and in the medium- and longer-term support for rules, standards, and transparency among members.

Feedback

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