

**puro •
earth**

Stakeholder Engagement Requirements

Contents

Introduction	2
Definitions.....	3
Verbal forms for expressions of provisions	4
Section 1: Stakeholder Engagement in Puro.earth Carbon Crediting Program Development	5
1. Stakeholder Engagement in Puro Standard development.....	5
2. Timing and documentation	5
3. Stakeholder invitation	6
4. Information to be shared with Stakeholders.....	6
5. Ongoing feedback and grievance mechanism	6
6. Inclusivity	7
Section 2: Stakeholder Engagement in Individual Mitigation Activities	8
1. Stakeholder Engagement in Individual Mitigation Activities	8
2. Timing and documentation	8
3. Stakeholder invitation	9
4. Information to be shared with Stakeholders.....	9
5. Ongoing feedback and grievance mechanism	10
6. Inclusivity	10

Introduction

Being an important requirement of several carbon credit accreditation schemes, including ICROA and The Integrity Council for the Voluntary Carbon Market (IC-VCM), Stakeholder Engagement plays a noteworthy role in ensuring high-quality of carbon credits. Therefore, the purpose of this Puro Standard Requirement is to lay foundational rules for Stakeholder Engagement in Puro.earth's activities as a carbon crediting program.

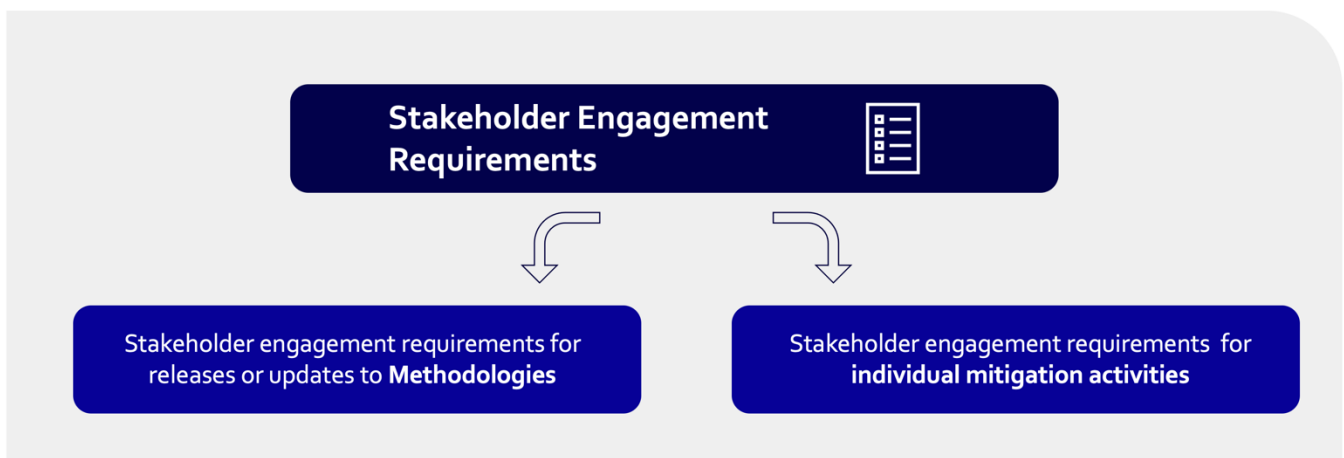
Stakeholder Engagement in Puro.earth is subdivided into two categories:

1) Section 1: **Stakeholder Engagement in Methodology development of Puro.earth**

and

2) Section 2: **Stakeholder Engagement in Individual Mitigation Activities**

The document is structured according to these two broader categories. The first section defines the requirements for Stakeholder Engagement in material updates to Puro.earth Methodologies. The second section of this document lays out the requirements for Stakeholder Engagement in individual mitigation activities, which are rules that CO₂ Removal Suppliers shall comply with. Thus, we recommend potential as well as active CO₂ Removal Suppliers of Puro.earth to thoroughly study the second part of this document.



Definitions

CO₂ Removal Supplier – A party representing a mitigation activity – a CO₂ Removal project and its Production Facility - according to the relevant Methodology in Puro.earth carbon crediting program.

General Rules – Highest-ranked document under the Puro Standard, defining the roles and responsibilities of different actors in the program and facilitating assessment of contractual compliance. The aim of these rules is to protect the rights of Account Holders of the System and to guarantee equal treatment.

Issuing Body – The carbon crediting program body responsible for Issuing credits (CORCs), operating the program, and for overseeing the reliability of the credits. The Issuing Body of the program is Puro.earth Oy.

Methodology – A Methodology provides procedures to verify the compliance of a CO₂ Removal activity with the respective Removal Method. Methodologies are specific to each Removal Method. It specifies the activity boundaries, detailed calculation formulas, and the proof needed for the activity performance. A Methodology may be revised, and the latest valid version must be used when verifying and issuing new certificates.

Output Report – The CO₂ Removal Supplier reports the mitigation activity performance and Output of a Production Facility periodically to the Issuing Body by submitting an Output Report.

Production Facility Audit – Audit performed by a 3rd party (validation/verification bodies; VVBs) to verify the details and eligibility of a Production Facility for admittance to the program according to the relevant Removal Method-specific Methodology.

Production Facility Registration – Production facility registration is initiated by the CO₂ Removal Supplier by filling in production facility details in the Production Facility Registration Form. Once all information is recorded, the CO₂ Removal Supplier submits the production facility for registration by the Issuing Body.

Puro.earth – Carbon crediting program Puro.earth Oy, including Puro Standard, Registry, and Issuing Body operations

Puro Standard – The collection of documents defining the eligibility requirements for CO₂ Removal Suppliers and quantification rules for the number of CORCs to be issued. This includes Puro Standard General Rules, Policy Documents, and Methodologies.

Stakeholder – Any individual or group interested in or directly impacted by the Puro standard or mitigation activity.

Stakeholder Engagement – The public stakeholder consultation process as well as ongoing public feedback implemented to ensure public stakeholder engagement in introductions or updates of Methodologies of the Puro Standard and in the design of individual mitigation activities by CO₂ Removal Suppliers

Registry – The electronic database of the system in which CORCs are deposited and transacted

Verbal forms for expressions of provisions

“**Shall**” specifies a requirement;

“**Shall not**” specifies an act that is prohibited;

“**Should**” specifies a recommendation;

“**May**” specifies a permission;

“**Can**” specifies a possibility or a capability.

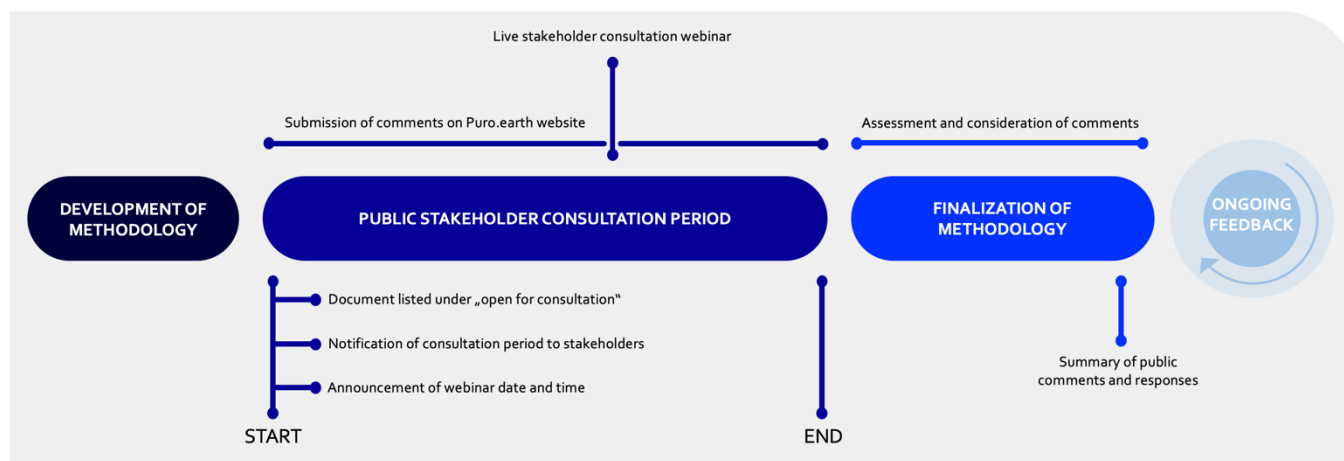
Section 1: Stakeholder Engagement in Puro.earth Carbon Crediting Program Development

1. Stakeholder Engagement in Puro Standard development

- 1.1 The objective of Stakeholder Engagement is to inform and to give Stakeholders a meaningful way of participating in the process of Methodology formulation, to draw the benefits that come from including a range of diverse viewpoints, and to identify key Stakeholders in the design and improvement of Puro.earth's Methodologies.
- 1.2 Stakeholder Engagement shall be conducted if Puro.earth makes material updates to or releases new Methodologies.
- 1.3 Stakeholder Engagement shall be implemented through an online public Stakeholder consultation period, during which Stakeholders may submit feedback.
- 1.4 Feedback can be submitted through a comment questionnaire, direct message on Puro.earth website, or in a consultation webinar.

2. Timing and documentation

- 2.1 Any public Stakeholder consultation period shall take place during the last stages of the development of a Methodology or of a materially updated version of an existing Methodology.
- 2.2 A duration of 21 days per consultation shall be the minimum in any case.
- 2.3 During the public Stakeholder consultation period, the experts involved in the development of the respective Methodology shall hold a Stakeholder consultation webinar. The webinar shall be announced via Puro.earth's key communication channels and anyone shall be able to participate in it upon registration.
- 2.4 The webinar shall be recorded and uploaded on the Puro.earth website along with the webinar slides and names of all panelists involved.
- 2.5 After the public Stakeholder Engagement period has ended, Puro.earth shall formally address and, if relevant, incorporate the gathered feedback in the edits of its respective Methodology. This shall be documented in a summary of consultation outcomes, which shall be uploaded on the Puro.earth website within a reasonable time.
- 2.6 Puro.earth may summarize the content of several comments but shall ensure that all written feedback received is documented reflecting its true content, without deliberate or undeliberate distortion of its meaning.



3. Stakeholder invitation

- 3.1 In advance of the launch of a Stakeholder consultation period on any Methodology and at the latest when the period begins, Puro.earth shall ensure that Stakeholders are notified. For this, Puro.earth shall use its notification system, consisting of its key communication channels, to publicly announce Stakeholder Engagement. By subscribing to one of these channels, Stakeholders will automatically receive notifications about the launch of any new Stakeholder consultation periods on Methodologies.
- 3.2 The notification shall include a direct link to or a description of how to access the written comment section on Puro.earth's website as well as a mention of the date and time the live Stakeholder consultation webinar will take place with a registration link.

4. Information to be shared with Stakeholders

- 4.1 Information shall be provided in Puro.earth's *document library* under *open consultations* at the beginning of each Stakeholder consultation period in two forms:
- A PDF draft document, representing the most current state of development of the respective Methodology;
 - In case a Methodology is updated, a summary of changes, shortly describing the main alterations compared to the previous version and written in understandable language, allowing anyone to comprehend its content.

5. Ongoing feedback and grievance mechanism

- 5.1 Stakeholders shall be given the opportunity to leave continuous feedback by sending an email to contact@puro.earth after the end of the Stakeholder consultation and the coming into effect of the respective Methodology.
- 5.2 Stakeholders may either provide their name, organization, or contact email address, or decide to stay anonymous.
- 5.3 Puro.earth shall duly consider this feedback and, if not received anonymously, provide a satisfactory answer within a reasonable time. Continuous feedback from Stakeholders may initiate a revision of an existing Methodology.

6. Inclusivity

- 6.1 Puro.earth shall ensure that Stakeholders who desire to participate are not excluded from Stakeholder Engagement and that the relevant website sections and the webinar are open to anyone interested in participating.
- 6.2 As a global carbon crediting program, Puro.earth is aware that its Stakeholders are not a homogenous but diverse community of individuals and organizations. To respect the range of different backgrounds of Stakeholders and further build on the benefits of Stakeholder diversity, Stakeholder Engagement shall take place in an appropriate tone of conversation. Particularly during the webinar, Puro.earth shall ensure that inappropriate or discriminatory statements do not occur.
- 6.3 In case any Stakeholders have expressed their interest in participating in the public Stakeholder consultation period but cannot take part due to disadvantageous circumstances, they shall at a minimum be given the chance to participate by:
- a) receiving the summary of changes or, in the case of a new Methodology, a summarized version of the draft in an appropriate form, e.g., as a letter;
 - b) being allowed to submit an answer in an appropriate form, e.g., by telephone or letter.

Puro.earth shall ensure that these comments are equally considered and addressed in the summary of outcomes.

Section 2: Stakeholder Engagement in Individual Mitigation Activities

1. Stakeholder Engagement in Individual Mitigation Activities

- 1.1 Stakeholder Engagement shall be conducted if a new CO₂ Removal Supplier seeks approval under the Puro Standard or if it makes any substantial changes to the design of its mitigation activity.
- 1.2 In case public consultation was conducted before application for approval under the Puro Standard, e.g., due to requirements of local authorities, the CO₂ Removal Supplier can possibly not be obliged to conduct a consultation as outlined in para 1.4. The following information shall be submitted to Puro.earth:
 - a) A description of how Stakeholders were identified and invited;
 - b) The information Stakeholders were provided with;
 - c) A description of the means of conducting the consultation;
 - d) A summary of the issues raised during the consultation;
 - e) A description of how feedback from the consultation was considered and how issues were resolved.

Puro.earth will assess the information provided to make a project-specific adjustment on whether the extent of previous Stakeholder Engagement is sufficient.
- 1.3 If previous Stakeholder Engagement was considered sufficient, the CO₂ Removal Supplier shall not be obliged to conduct a consultation as described in the course of this document. The most relevant information will be published along with other project documents in the Puro Registry.
- 1.4 In case the CO₂ Removal Supplier has not conducted sufficient Stakeholder Engagement prior to application for approval under the Puro Standard, Stakeholder Engagement shall be conducted by independently organizing and hosting a public Stakeholder consultation in an appropriate format commonly used in the local community.

2. Timing and documentation

- 2.1 Stakeholder Engagement shall take place after the Issuing Body has approved the Production Facility Registration and before the beginning of the Production Facility Audit.
- 2.2 The Stakeholder Engagement period shall have a maximum length of 21 days.
- 2.3 After the Stakeholder Engagement period has ended, the CO₂ Removal Supplier shall consolidate and address all comments made in this [stakeholder engagement report](#). The CO₂ Removal Supplier should read the report before conducting Stakeholder Engagement to ensure it knows which data must be collected.
- 2.4 The CO₂ Removal Supplier shall submit the [stakeholder engagement report](#) to Puro.earth prior to initiation of the Production Facility Audit.
- 2.5 The CO₂ Removal Supplier shall ensure that all comments received are documented reflecting their true content, without deliberate or undeliberate distortion of its meaning. This

particularly applies to non-written types of Stakeholder Engagement, where comments need to be transformed from spoken words into text.

- 2.6 Based on the [stakeholder engagement report](#) and other evidence provided, Puro.earth will determine whether the CO₂ Removal Supplier has sufficiently addressed feedback.

3. Stakeholder invitation

- 3.1 The CO₂ Removal Supplier shall identify and invite the following Stakeholders, including, but not limited to:
- a) Local Stakeholders, that is, Stakeholders in the immediate environment of the facility of the CO₂ Removal Supplier, and most prone to experience direct or indirect effects of the respective carbon removal activity;
 - b) Stakeholders with land-tenure rights within the vicinity of the project boundary;
 - c) Relevant local politicians and representatives of relevant local authorities;
 - d) Local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) or international NGOs who are active in the region and relevant to the topic;
 - e) Representatives of relevant working groups of vulnerable and marginalized groups within the vicinity of the project boundary;
 - f) Relevant industry experts, given there are any in the near environment.
- 3.2 The invitation of identified Stakeholders shall take place within a reasonable time prior to the start date of the Stakeholder consultation.
- 3.3 The CO₂ Removal Supplier shall find a suitable way of providing all identified Stakeholders with an invitation. In particular, this involves the consideration of Stakeholders without access to the internet or a mobile device.
- 3.4 The invitation shall include an address under which the CO₂ Removal Supplier can be contacted by post as well as a valid phone number.
- 3.5 The CO₂ Removal Supplier shall provide evidence of the invitations by providing a sample invitation in the [stakeholder engagement report](#).
- 3.6 In case any relevant Stakeholders that fall under the categories listed in para 3.1 were not invited to participate, the CO₂ Removal Supplier shall provide justification.

4. Information to be shared with Stakeholders

- 4.1 Stakeholders shall be provided with general, non-technical information on the mitigation project to help them comprehend the design, implementation plan, and planned operation of the mitigation activity. This project description shall be accompanied by a detailed, understandable description of how the environmental, economic, and social effects - both potentially positive and negative - of the mitigation activity might affect their rights, interests, and traditional livelihoods.
- 4.2 It might happen that the CO₂ Removal Supplier has identified important Stakeholders that fall under the categories listed in para 3.1 but are not able to have access to the information provided on the website, e.g., disabled individuals or some indigenous peoples. In such cases, it is the responsibility of the CO₂ Removal Supplier to ensure a custom solution allowing anyone to comprehend the information listed in para 4.1.

5. Ongoing feedback and grievance mechanism

- 5.1 After the public comment period has ended and the mitigation activity becomes active under the Puro Standard, Stakeholders shall be given the opportunity to submit continuous feedback on the CO₂ Removal Supplier's activity. The CO₂ Removal Supplier shall therefore provide a means of contact to the public (e.g., e-mail address, phone number, letterbox).
- 5.2 This ongoing feedback and grievance mechanism shall be culturally appropriate and ensure at least that all relevant Stakeholders as listed in para 3.1 have access while allowing for anonymous feedback.
- 5.3 The CO₂ Removal Supplier shall duly consider and satisfactorily respond to received ongoing feedback within a reasonable response time.
- 5.4 The CO₂ Removal Supplier shall document any ongoing feedback-based exchange with Stakeholders in its Output Report for the respective monitoring period.
- 5.5 The CO₂ Removal Supplier shall show frankness and readiness to address feedback not only in words but to initiate potential revisions to its project design, implementation, or operation. It is especially important that local and indigenous knowledge receives attention and becomes utilized.
- 5.6 The CO₂ Removal Supplier shall provide justifications in case any feedback has not been incorporated or reacted to. Unjustified withholding of received feedback in the Output Report can result in the deregistration of the CO₂ Removal Supplier from the Puro Registry.

6. Inclusivity

- 6.1 Stakeholder Engagement shall be open to anyone interested in participating. The CO₂ Removal Supplier shall ensure that Stakeholders listed in para 3.1 who express interest in or would likely want to participate in the Stakeholder consultation are not excluded.
- 6.2 Each form of consultation shall take place in an appropriate tone of conversation. If not, the host of the conversation shall put in place a mechanism that eliminates and not further allows for inappropriate or discriminatory statements.
- 6.3 The CO₂ Removal Supplier shall, in particular, encourage and solicit feedback from socially vulnerable and marginalized groups, such as girls and women, indigenous peoples, ethnic and cultural minorities, disabled people, migrants, members of the LGBTQ+ community, and refugees.
- 6.4 If any interested Stakeholders listed in para 3.1 were identified but cannot take part in the selected means of Stakeholder Engagement due to disadvantageous circumstances, they must at minimum be offered the possibility to take part in Stakeholder Engagement by:
 - a) receiving information as described in para 4.1 and 4.2 in an appropriate form;
 - b) being allowed to submit an answer in an appropriate form, e.g., by telephone or letter.

In such cases, the CO₂ Removal Supplier shall ensure that those comments are as well and equally considered and addressed in the [stakeholder engagement report](#).

- 6.5 If indigenous peoples have been identified as Stakeholders as listed in para 3.1 and are deprived of internet or mobile access, the CO₂ Removal Supplier shall not only follow para 6.4 but furthermore explicitly ask whether they wish to conduct a physical meeting to discuss the mitigation activity and if so, document the outcomes in the [stakeholder engagement report](#).
- 6.6 Puro.earth does not tolerate discrimination. Thus, the CO₂ Removal Supplier shall acknowledge that communities are not homogenous but diverse groups of individuals whose interests must be given equal attention, no matter their age, sex, gender, origin, race, ethnicity, religion, culture, language, political belief, identity, sexual orientation, or abilities. This involves every step of Stakeholder Engagement.