CARBON REMOVAL BOOSTER

The whitepaper will be published at the end of summer.
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Implementing CDR in Switzerland: a cantonal perspective

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Introduction

- Switzerland's 2022 Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) and Carbon Dioxide Removal (CDR) roadmap sets out a national pathway for scaling carbon capture, storage, and removals towards 2050 climate targets.
- Yet **CDR deployment depends on locally shaped conditions** such as permitting, spatial planning, co-funding, infrastructure, and implementation capacity, giving **cantons an important role in translating national climate ambitions into practice**.

Who is this whitepaper for?

This whitepaper aims to support **cantonal policymakers** in identifying current approaches, gaps, and enabling factors for CDR development, while also helping **CDR startups and project developers** understand where different approaches are being explored and where policy momentum may be emerging.

Method Overview

Policy analysis: Cantonal **climate strategies** were analyzed for all 26 cantons to assess how net-zero goals, residual emissions, and CDR are, or planned to be, addressed.

Targeted information extraction and assessment: Relevant information was captured through keyword and semantic search and analyzed based on predefined criteria.

Semi-structured expert interviews: Building on the findings and insights of the policy analysis, policymakers from 21 cantons were interviewed in English, German, French, or Italian, with **interviews lasting 30–60 minutes**.

Preliminary Findings 1: Cantonal CDR Approaches

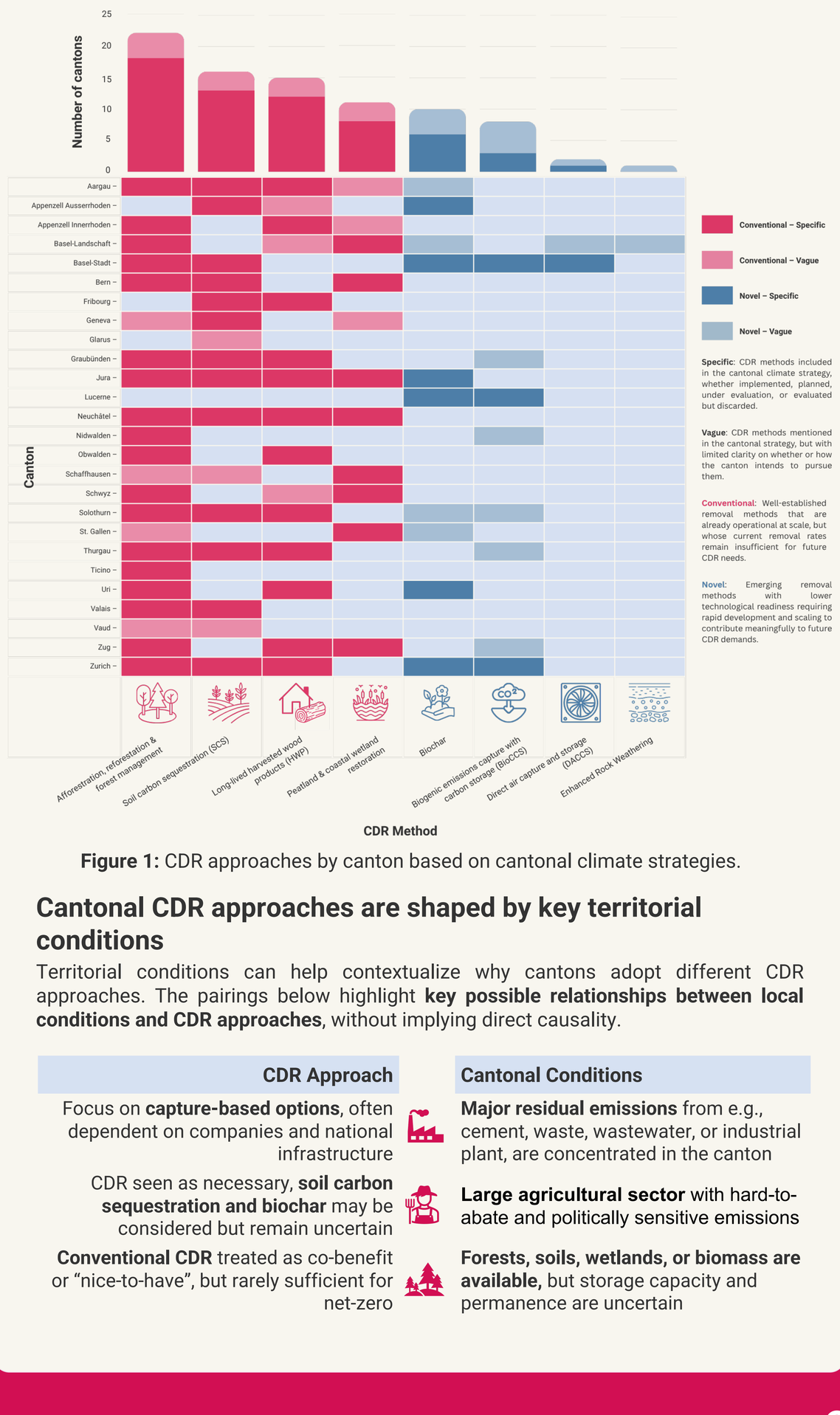


Figure 1: CDR approaches by canton based on cantonal climate strategies.

Cantonal CDR approaches are shaped by key territorial conditions

Territorial conditions can help contextualize why cantons adopt different CDR approaches. The pairings below highlight **key possible relationships between local conditions and CDR approaches**, without implying direct causality.

CDR Approach	Cantonal Conditions
Focus on **capture-based options**, often dependent on companies and national infrastructure	**Major residual emissions** from e.g., cement, waste, wastewater, or industrial plant, are concentrated in the canton
CDR seen as necessary, **soil carbon sequestration and biochar** may be considered but remain uncertain	**Large agricultural sector** with hard-to-abate and politically sensitive emissions
Conventional CDR treated as co-benefit or "nice-to-have", but rarely sufficient for net-zero	**Forests, soils, wetlands, or biomass are available,** but storage capacity and permanence are uncertain

Preliminary Findings 2: Clarity of Responsibilities and Collaboration as Key Enabling Factors for CDR Deployment

Cantons emphasize the need for **clearly defined responsibilities** while recognizing their own role in enabling CDR implementation. They highlight the importance of a clear **lead to navigate uncertainty**; this leadership may come from the Confederation or from frontrunner cantons acting as first movers. In addition, cantons point to dialogue and **collaboration across governance levels** as a critical aspect in supporting CDR deployment and scaling.

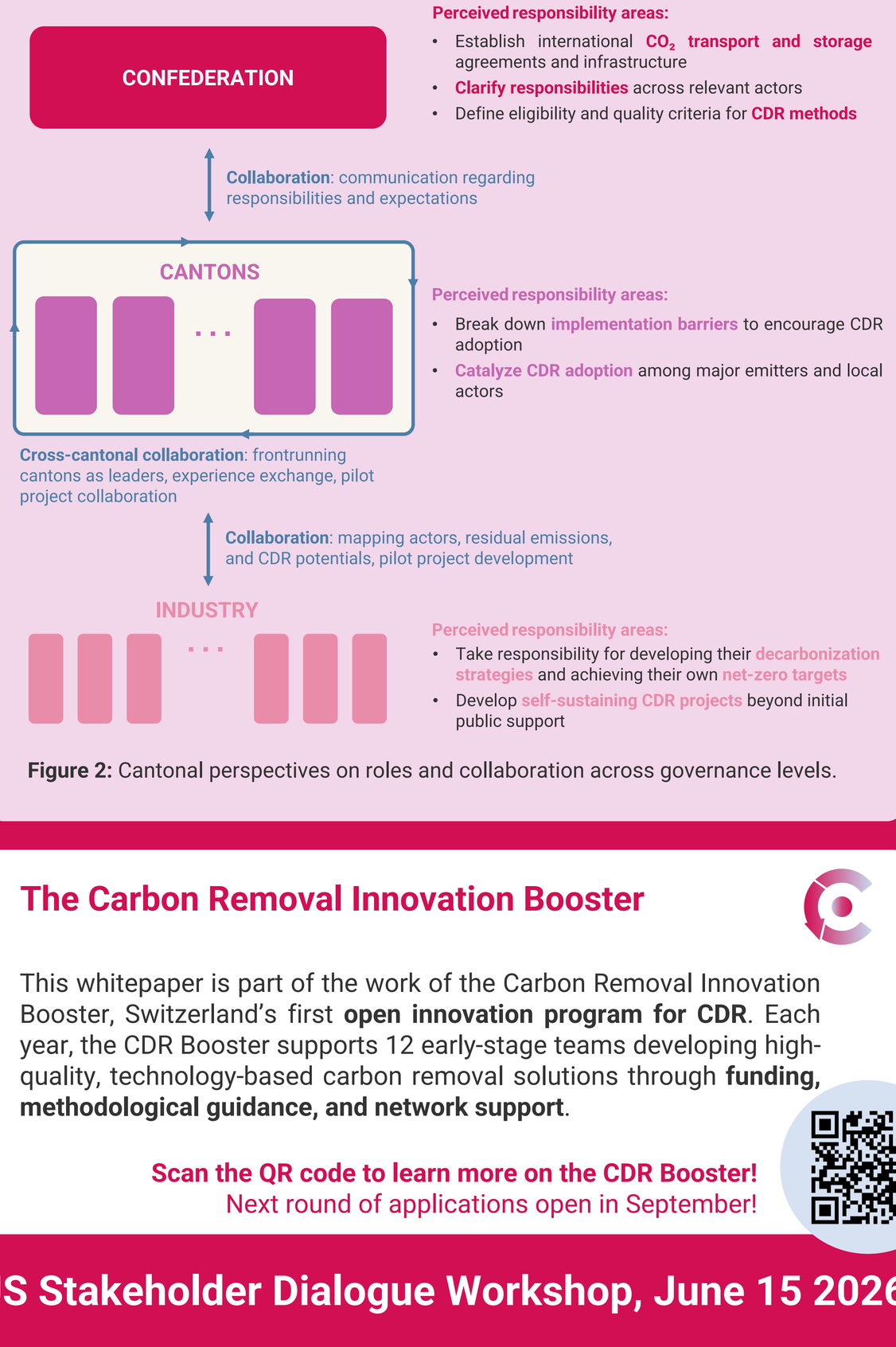


Figure 2: Cantonal perspectives on roles and collaboration across governance levels.

The Carbon Removal Innovation Booster

This whitepaper is part of the work of the Carbon Removal Innovation Booster, Switzerland's first **open innovation program for CDR**. Each year, the CDR Booster supports 12 early-stage teams developing high-quality, technology-based carbon removal solutions through **funding, methodological guidance, and network support**.

Scan the QR code to learn more on the CDR Booster!
Next round of applications open in September!

CCUS Stakeholder Dialogue Workshop, June 15 2026