

Why the EU's rulebook for certifying permanent carbon removals will fail

WWF EPO, Fern and CMW webinar

Agenda

- Intro and political context (Wijnand, CMW)
 - Biomass sustainability (Martin, Fern)
 - Legal concerns (Sofia, WWF EPO)
- ❖ Reaction and comparison with other carbon crediting standards (Felix, Öko-Institute)

Followed by Q&A/discussion



Introduction

- What are 'permanent removals'?
- What is the CRCF?
- Why should we care about it?



Intro: What are permanent removals?

Carbon Dioxide Removal The four principles that define it

- 1 Carbon dioxide is **physically removed from the atmosphere.**
- 2 The removed carbon dioxide is **stored** out of the atmosphere **in a manner intended to be permanent.**
- 3 **Upstream and downstream GHG**, associated with the removal and storage process, are comprehensively estimated and **included in the emission balance.**
- 4 The total quantity of atmospheric **carbon dioxide removed and permanently stored is greater than** the total quantity of **carbon dioxide emitted** to the atmosphere.



Source: [Tanzer and Ramirez \(2019\)](#)

Issues across the board we'll pick up on today



Intro: We need CDR (unfortunately)

Removing CO₂ from atmosphere vital to avoid catastrophic tipping points, leading scientist says

10bn tonnes must be captured from the air every year to limit global heating to 1.7C, says Johan Rockström

ipcc

INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON climate change

Climate Change 2022 Mitigation of Climate Change

Summary for Policymakers

- C.11 The deployment of carbon dioxide removal (CDR) to counterbalance hard-to-abate residual emissions is unavoidable if net zero CO₂ or GHG emissions are to be achieved. The scale and timing of deployment will depend on the trajectories of gross emission reductions in different sectors. Upscaling the deployment of CDR depends on developing effective approaches to address feasibility and sustainability constraints especially at large scales. (*high confidence*) {3.4, 7.4, 12.3, Cross-Chapter Box 8 in Chapter 12}



Introduction - what is the CRCF?

CRCF

Accounting and certification scheme

- Not a simple matter
 - Many political pressures
- **Balancing act**

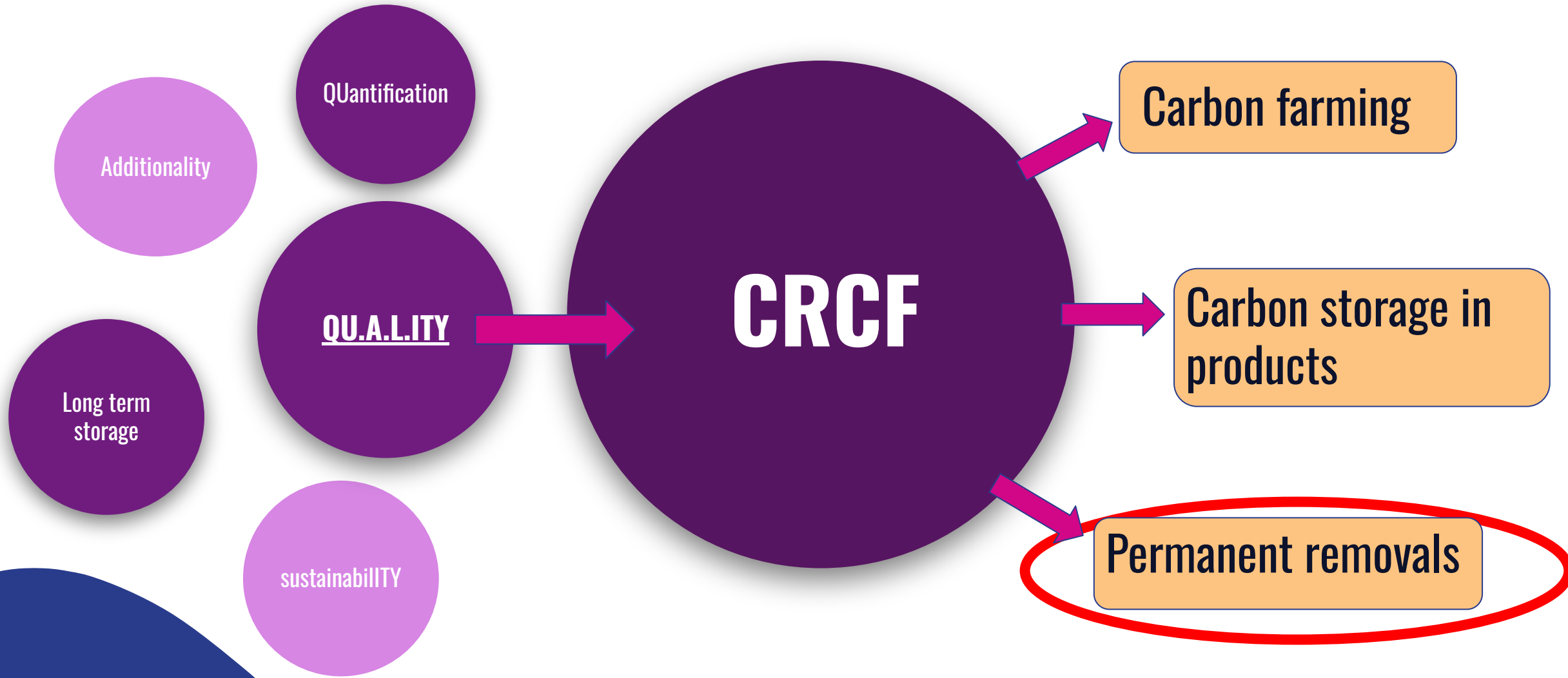
Environmental
rigour



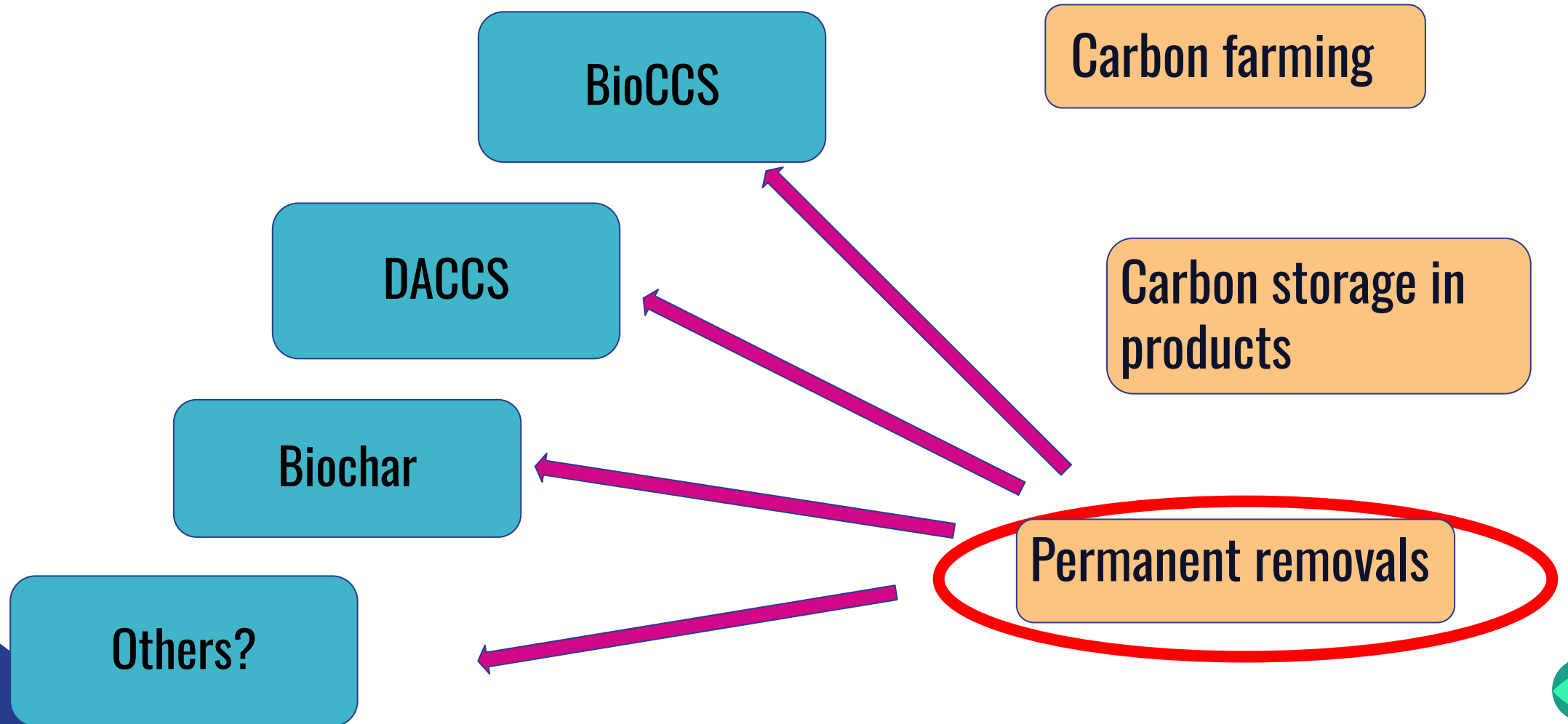
“Simplification”



Introduction - what is the CRCF?



Introduction - what is the CRCF?



Why should we care?

2040 net 90% target,
2050 climate neutrality target,
National targets,
EU Taxonomy,
Bioeconomy strategy,
Corporate Sustainability Reporting, Green Claims, etc

LULUCF Regulation, Effort Sharing Regulation, Common Agricultural Policy, Soil Monitoring Law, Nature credits, LIFE and Horizon, State Aid, EU Regional Development Fund, EU buyers Club

Carbon farming

Horizon, New European Bauhaus, Energy Performance of Buildings Directive, Construction Products Regulation

Carbon storage in products

EU Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS1),
Innovation Fund,
National Funding/State aid
LIFE and Horizon
EU Buyers Club

Permanent removals



Why should we care?

2040 net 90% target,
2050 climate neutrality target

Offsetting or 'compensating'/'balancing'

- EU ETS (DACCS and BioCCS)
- Overall climate targets

EU Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS1)

Permanent removals





CARBON MARKET WATCH

Contact

wijnand.stoefs@carbonmarketwatch.org

www.carbonmarketwatch.org

Conclusions

- **Permanent removal units could impact climate policy**
 - Rules should be well designed and watertight (offsetting risk)
- **Delegated Act doesn't respect CRCF compromise**
 - Legally shaky
- **Trust is important**
 - Weak scheme leads to weak units
- **WWF, Fern and CMW:**
 - Policymakers: reject this Delegated Act
 - If it goes through we urge buyers not to use CRCF

