Summary of
the Stakeholder Analyses in the case study regions Altmark and Rhein

The goal of CC-LandStraD is to develop land use strategies appropriate for climate change mitigation and adaptation in Germany. Potential regional adaptations and the local acceptability of these strategies will be studied in two specific case study regions Altmark and Rhein. The case study region Altmark covers the administrative districts (Landkreise) Stendal and Altmarkkreis Salzwedel, while the case study region Rhine covers the two administrative districts Rheinisch-Bergischer Kreis and Rhein-Sieg-Kreis.

A first step was a socio-economic regional analysis based on a document analysis and statistical data. A second step was a stakeholder analysis for which 40 locally important stakeholder organizations in agriculture, forestry, housing, environmental protection and regional development were identified. For data collection, in each land use sector, stakeholder organizations were identified from private pressure groups, state organizations and non-state organizations.

Semi-structured expert interviews were used to gather data on local perceptions on climate change impacts and sector specific assessments on the necessity for alternative land use options.

Table 1: Number of Expert Interviews per Land Use Sector and Case Study Region

	Case Study Region Rhein	Case Study Region Altmark	Interviews
Agriculture	5	4	9
Forestry	4	3	7
Housing and Transport	2	2	4
Environmental Protection	3	7	10
Tourism, Regional Development	7	3	10
Interviews	21	19	40

The analysis points at major differences in the two case study regions. The case study region “Altmark” in Eastern Germany is characterized by population loss, weak economic development, a rather high importance of agricultural land use and no direct linkage to major transport infrastructure. The case study region “Rhein” in Western Germany is partly of semi-urban character, closely located to major urban areas, and agriculture plays a minor role for gross domestic production.

Important land use trends in both regions are a growingly intensified agricultural and forest production and a reduction in extensive land use practices. Environmentalists in both regions therefore claim the loss of endangered habitats. Land use trends are impacted by a general increase in land prices, an increase in market prices for agricultural products and a high demand for forest products. In addition, a regionally specific impact on land use was reported. In the Altmark region the establishment of decentralized renewable energy plants has reportedly increased the production of biomass, mainly maize, for renewable energy production.

Climate change phenomena are observed in both case study regions. However, until now, climate change has impacted land use and land use practices only in specific areas: public forest owners aim to improve storm resistance of forests by means of diversification; in the field of crop production drought resistant varieties are preferred as well as dates for land preparation and harvest were partly reported to be adapted.

The empirical work has shown options for alternative land use strategies for climate change mitigation and adaptation in both study regions which are not being put into practice until now. The identified land use options will serve as promising starting points for an intensified discussion among local stakeholders and scientists during the upcoming transdisciplinary stakeholder-science dialogue in order to arrive at scientifically sound and locally adapted sustainable land use strategies.

Rosemarie Siebert / Wibke Crewett

Leibniz-Center for Agricultural Landscape Research (ZALF) e. V., Müncheberg