

**Mitigating and adapting to climate change.
Perceptions and assessments of stakeholders
of different land use sectors**

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English Summary

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Land use and its interdependencies with climate change are increasingly being discussed in Germany, but all of the important sectors of land use – forestry, agriculture, settlement and nature protection – are rarely taken into account in one joint project. CC-LandStraD analyses the way in which land users can contribute to mitigating climate change and how sustainable land use strategies adapted to climate change impacts can look. The project applies transdisciplinary methods, implying that stakeholders (decision-makers, interest groups and concerned parties of land use) are involved throughout the research project. Intermediary results are discussed and refined in discussion with relevant societal stakeholders to ensure the acceptance and applicability of the final project results.

In the work package “Stakeholder involvement on national level”, 22 semi-structured interviews with national representatives of all major land use sectors were realised in 2011/2012. Seven interviews were conducted with agricultural organisations, five with forestry sector stakeholders, three with representatives of national organisations involved in local governance, four with environmental stakeholders, one with a bioenergy organisation and two with other land use stakeholders. The interviews focused on current and future land use conflicts and the relevance of climate change mitigation as well as

adaptation measures in the different land use sectors. The current report presents and summarizes the stakeholders' interview statements without passing judgment.

According to the interviewees, the main land use conflicts exist within forestry and agriculture, particularly with regard to competing land use demands between food and timber production on the one hand, and energy production on the other. The ongoing reduction of farmland due to settlement expansion and the implementation of environmental measures are considered the most significant land use conflict between the main land use sectors.

The stakeholders refer to the necessity for climate change adaptation because, in their opinion, the higher number of extreme weather events, the immigration of new species of flora and fauna as well as an already extended vegetation period are characteristic of the climate change. Furthermore the stakeholders confirmed that the public debates on climate change do have an impact on their daily work, but the uncertainty of the impacts of the climate change and a lack of small-scale projections make it difficult to deal with. With regard to bioenergy, the stakeholders point out that it is necessary to draw upon further energy sources than at present, because in the long run, energy crops alone cannot cover the renewable energy requirements.

In the agricultural sector, potential points for climate change mitigation are seen in more efficient methods of cultivation, conservative soil management and the protection of grassland and swamp areas. According to the interview partners, the forestry sector faces the task of increasing the share and density of woodland as well as the use of wood products due to their high potential of carbon dioxide accumulation. While the stakeholders representing local government bodies (cities, towns and districts) emphasize that land use expansion by settlements has already been reduced, they acknowledge further potential targets, such as redeveloping urban brownfields. Climate change mitigation in the settlement sector is particularly related to saving energy and has less to do with land use changes which are the focus of CC-LandStraD.

From the research project, the interviewees expect applicability and recommendations that are as concrete and specific to their problems as possible. Moreover CC-LandStraD should provide them with an overview of the present discussions on climate change and land use by also taking into account global developments.

The measures for climate change mitigation and adaptation (to be found throughout the report and in more detail in Annex I–III) are based on the statements of the stakeholders. Provided that they can be subject to modeling, they will play a significant part for the developing of sustainable land use strategies by CC-LandStraD. Further intermediary project results will be discussed with interested stakeholders at future workshops during the remaining project period (2013–15).