



CARBONICA Brain Gain Roundtable #7

**“Monitoring biodiversity to
support carbon removals and
soil health”**

Summary and Key Outcomes



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CARBONICA Brain Gain Roundtable #7 **Monitoring biodiversity to support carbon removals and soil health**

Date: November 25, 2025

Lead Working Group: Greece

Moderator: Dr. Paraskevi Chantzi, Argiro Papastergiou, Daphne Kitsou, Interbalkan Environment Center (Scientific Coordinator), Greece

Working Group speakers:

- Dr Thanos Arampatzis food, Greece (CARBONICA's Project Coordination team)

Invited Diaspora expert speaker:

Stelios Dritsas, Climate KIC, Belgium (Academia / Research)

MAP Representatives invited speakers:

- George Lokkas, creditCARB, Greece (Industry)
- Nicolas Netien, olive farm manager, Cyprus (Farmer/ civil society)
- Mellma Mehmeti, Ministry of Environment, North Macedonia (Policy)

Key outcomes

- **Biodiversity as a core pillar of carbon removals**

Speakers emphasized that biodiversity should move beyond being treated as a co-benefit and become a core requirement within carbon removal and certification frameworks. Robust biodiversity indicators and monitoring approaches are essential to ensure that carbon farming delivers both climate and ecosystem benefits.

- **Aligning EU frameworks to reduce costs and increase impact**

Strong synergies were highlighted between the EU Soil Monitoring and Resilience Directive and the Carbon Removal Certification Framework (CRCF). Improved alignment can reduce administrative burdens, enhance soil health monitoring, and unlock new revenue opportunities for farmers through nature-positive carbon credits.

- **Opportunities and challenges for farmers**

Carbon farming and biodiversity-friendly practices were recognized as promising pathways for farmers. However, challenges remain, including methodological fragmentation, financial barriers—particularly for small-scale farmers—and uncertainty around additionality criteria. Blended finance and advisory support were identified as key enablers for wider adoption

- **Market mechanisms and private sector engagement**

Insights from the voluntary carbon market demonstrated how high-quality, nature-positive carbon credits can attract private investment and support corporate net-zero strategies. Examples illustrated how farmers can generate carbon credits through sustainable practices and access international markets, provided credible certification and quality assurance are in place.

- **Policy alignment and regional learning**

National experiences from North Macedonia and Cyprus highlighted the importance of holistic approaches linking soil health, water, and biodiversity within climate-smart agriculture policies. Policymakers stressed the need to align national strategies with emerging EU frameworks to support farmers and rural communities in the transition to carbon farming.

- **Future-oriented adoption**

The roundtable emphasized the role of younger farmers as key actors in adopting climate-friendly practices, highlighting the importance of targeted support and knowledge exchange.

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