



Climate Action Network

Position on Marine Geoengineering

October 2024

Climate Action Network (CAN) is a global network of more than 1,900 civil society organisations in over 130 countries driving collective and sustainable action to fight the climate crisis and to achieve social and racial justice.

The increased momentum behind marine geoengineering belies the fact that there is no evidence that it can be scaled up to provide safe, effective, and durable guaranteed removal of atmospheric CO₂ with neutral or positive outcomes for the ocean environment. The IPCC has left no doubt that irreversible impacts would come from overshooting 1.5°C, nor that there are huge physical uncertainties of attempting large-scale carbon removal, and that reliance on future CDR is delaying deep emission cuts now.

Many technologies remain in the early stages of testing and verification and a host of questions remain regarding how the deployment of marine geoengineering technologies would be governed, and how emission reductions would be monitored and verified. At the same time, no standards currently exist to assess the efficacy of any of these approaches and we do not know enough about the risks or benefits.

Given the significant potential for harmful and unintended consequences of marine geoengineering, combined with the gaps in scientific knowledge and governance, CAN advocates a strong application of the precautionary principle and adopts the following position:

- 1) Call for implementation and enforcement of existing regulations, resolutions and decisions at the Convention on Biological Diversity and the London Convention / London Protocol that prevent deployment and place strict controls on outdoor testing of marine geoengineering.**
- 2) Stop, prevent and where necessary reverse policies and public support for marine geoengineering technology development and testing, and carbon credits generated through marine / ocean carbon removal projects; and instead channel support towards restoring ocean health so it can maintain its carbon cycle function.**
- 3) Strengthen the regulation of marine geoengineering technologies to ensure that harmful activities do not take place and marine ecosystems are protected.**