ACP ASIAN Co-benefits Partnership

The Co-benefits Corner
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The Asian Co-benefits Partnership (ACP) serves as an informal and interactive platform to improve information sharing and stakeholder coordination on co-benefits in Asia. The ACP was launched with the support of the Ministry of the Environment, Japan in 2010 to help mainstream climate and environmental co-benefits into decision-making processes in Asia. Learn more about us at our website. http://www.cobenefit.org/

Highlights

Moving the Pathway Approach Forward in Asia

Nathan Borgford-Parnell
Science Affairs Officer
Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC)

Can you briefly explain your role as a Science Affairs Officer for the CCAC?

My primary role is to help facilitate the communication of science on short-lived climate pollutants (SLCPs) to policymakers and other relevant stakeholders. In this role, I am working on several key initiatives. For example, I coordinate the CCAC regional assessment initiative, which is developing several authoritative reports based on the most recent science on SLCPs at the regional level. In this initiative, we recently published a high-profile report on SLCPs in Latin America. We are also completing a report on air pollution in Asia called *Air Pollution in Asia and the Pacific: Science-based Solutions* that will recommend 25 key technical measures that can significantly cut air pollution in the region. We are in the planning stage for an assessment for Africa that will break new ground on how the region can control air pollution and avert climate change. In each of these reports, we aim to provide actional recommendations based on the most robust science and findings relevant to the region.

In addition to the regional assessment initiative, I am also heading up an effort to take forward what we call the pathway approach as part of a team of partners from the CCAC. This initiative is underlining the importance of not simply aiming to achieve significant reductions in temperatures as outlined in the Paris Agreement but concentrating on the pathway that take to reach that ambitious goals. The pathway is important because some development paths may achieve near-term reductions in climate change as well as many other Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The pathway approach sounds like it could offer a useful decision-making framework for policymakers wondering about how SLCPs integrate into their climate policies and development plans. Can you say more about what you see as the main selling points of this approach?

First and foremost, I see the pathway approach as offering insights into how we can reach the 1.5C target that is set out in the Paris Agreement. The Paris Agreement did not just establish an ambitious temperature target for the world, it also framed that target within 'the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty.' In that frame, the path that we take to reach our collective target is crucial, and focusing exclusively on longer-lived greenhouse gases (GHG) might not offer policymakers a full picture of the mitigation options.

Second, I see the pathway approach as an important step in making the link between climate change and development objectives more explicit by providing a framework for assessing the impacts and benefits of our actions on air pollutants and GHGs. There have been numerous references to sustainable development in past climate agreements; but by looking closely at the near-term impacts of our decisions we can now truly bring outcomes such as improved health or increased crop yields into focus.

Third, in line with the above two reasons I also see the pathway approach as helping decision makers to refine and enhance ambition in their nationally determined contributions (NDCs). Particularly with the ratchet up

mechanism and global stocktake under the Paris Agreement, policymakers will have opportunities to learn and adjust as they work towards achieving their climate and development goals. The pathway approach—as a relatively flexible framework that helps to quantify and compare the multiple impacts and benefits of different strategies in the near- and longer-term—can be a useful tool in the NDC process.

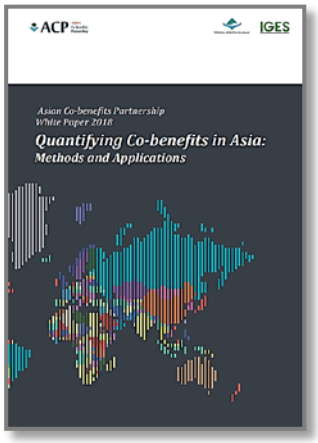
Can you reflect a little on what role you see the pathway approach playing in Asia? What do you see as the potential applications in Asia?

A clear application, as mentioned above, is the NDC enhancement process as well as the mid-century strategies. It is already evident that many countries in Asia are factoring SLCPs or air pollution into their NDCs. For many countries, the local benefits of action are a very important development concerns and are a key ingredient to promoting greater ambition for emissions reductions in countries, mitigation that also contributes to the achievement of climate goals. The pathway approach can shed a revealing light on how they can strengthen and take advantage of these links.

Another important application involves systems thinking. I see the pathway approach has helping to bring some of the work that envisages environment, social, and economic as interdependent systems into applied decision making. This would help to make some of the lessons taught in environmental policy classes on systems thinking applicable to actual decisions. Asia could play an important role in this process.

One way that Asia could help take forward systems thinking is to begin to bring in the different impacts that temperature pathways have on adaptation and resiliency. For example, it is widely known that climate change is already leading to sea level rise, but we can now begin to understand how SLCPs contribute to rising levels of water and other second order impacts.

Updates



ACP released its 3rd White Paper entitled *Quantifying Co-benefits in Asia: Method and Applications*

The Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development have generated a fast growing interest in strengthening the links between climate change and other development priorities in Asia. Due to this growing interest, policymakers are increasingly looking for tools and methods that can analyse linkages between climate change and development priorities. The main purpose of this ACP White Paper 2018 is to broaden and deepen policymakers and practitioners understanding of tools that can quantify co-benefits.

Download this report at:
https://www.cobenefit.org/publications/images/ACPwhitePaper_2018.pdf

ACP Good Practice Map collected 28 cases from 10 countries

The ACP Good Practice Map was created in 2016 with ten initial cases in key sectors i.e. Energy/Industry, Transportation, Waste Management, and Biomass/Fuel to share illustrations of the vast and varied approaches taken to achieve co-benefits in Asia; and, in 2017, ten additional cases with new sector of Livelihood was added to capture the importance of social co-benefits. As of March 2018, eight new cases have been collected from Japan and Korea: one under the Energy sector from Nagano (Japan); three for the Transportation from Kashiwa (Japan), Saitama (Japan), and Suwon (Korea); three biomass cases from Kobe, Maniwa, and Shikaoi (all Japan); and one Livelihood case from Seoul (Korea).

Find out more at: https://www.cobenefit.org/good_practice/

Asian Co-benefits Partnership (ACP) Secretariat
The Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)
2108-11 Kamiyamaguchi, Hayama, Kanagawa, Japan
acp[at]iges.or.jp ☎+81-(0)46-855-3709

ACP Website
http://www.cobenefit.org/

IGES Institute for Global Environmental Strategies

Ministry of the Environment