

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/>



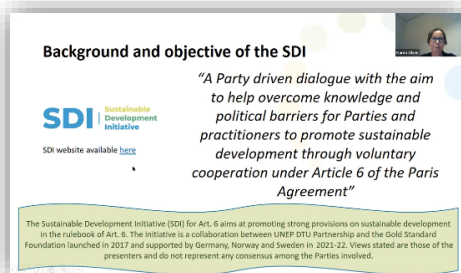
Highlights

Webinar: Assessing the Climate and Sustainable Development Impacts of Projects and Policies

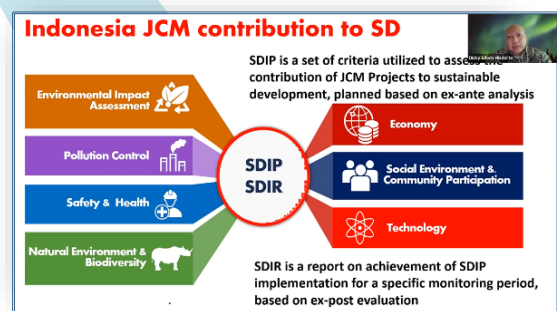
The close links between the climate change and the sustainable development agendas have led to growing demands for tools that can assess the multiple benefits of climate projects and policies. These linkages also open opportunities to bring climate finance to development needs such as controlling air pollution and improving health. However, accessing this finance and enhancing relevant projects and policies means policymakers need to understand how these tools can improve their projects and policies.

On December 8th, 2021, the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), and UNEP-DTU Partnership held the first in a series of knowledge-exchange webinars on how different international organisations and research institutions are using tools to assess the sustainable development impacts of climate change and development projects. The webinar, entitled *Assessing the Climate and Sustainable Development Impacts of Projects and Policies*, pointed to several areas that can help advance the climate and sustainable development agendas. This ACP newsletter summarises some of the key points in the webinar presentations.

Agreement. Dr. Holm began by underlining that the Sustainable Development Initiative for Article 6 that she helped create was launched in 2017 to promote strong provisions on sustainable development in the rulebook of Article 6. These provisions are much needed because there are limits on the current tool that are used to assess sustainable development under the Clean Development Mechanism (henceforth CDM SD Tool), including limited coverage of negative impacts; limited monitoring and evaluation; and limited requirements on stakeholder requirement etc. She then presented several recommendations for the improvements of the CDM SD Tool. As a first step, these include introducing no-harm safeguards and enhancing stakeholder engagement requirements. A second set of enhancements include the introduction of the UNFCCC certification of SD co-benefits and the creation of a global standard for quantification of SD co-benefits. Dr. Holm noted the Glasgow decision for Article 6 opens an important opportunity to introduce the above reforms. She further emphasised that putting SD assessment into practice requires capacity building support aimed at sharing of good practices; enabling a community of practice to co-develop common but nationally appropriate SD tools for learning; and using the pursuit of SD to raise climate ambitions.

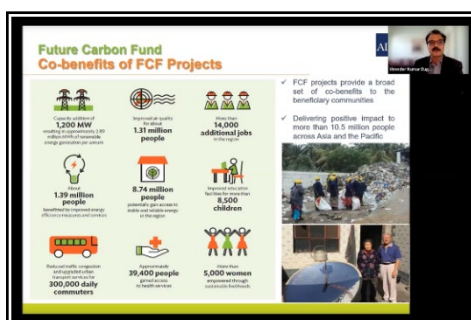


Karen Holm Olsen, UNEP DTU Partnership, presented about Experience on Developing the Clean Development Mechanism Sustainable Development tool and Lessons Learned for Article 6 of the Paris



Next presentation on **Indonesia's Experience with**

Assessing the Sustainable Development Benefits of Climate Projects was presented by **Dicky Edwin Hindarto**, Advisor for Indonesia Joint Credit Mechanism (JCM) Implementation. He shared efforts to promote SD with projects from the CDM and JCM. Many of the examples he used focused on the question of how to measure the contribution of mitigation projects to SDG achievement. For example, Indonesia has developed its own guidelines for assessing SD under the CDM. Regarding JCM projects, Indonesia has developed several guidelines, procedures, rules, registry systems and methodologies to measure, report and verify projects. More concretely, the Sustainable Development Implementation Plan (SDIP) is a set of criteria utilised to evaluate the contribution of JCM projects to SD based on *ex-ante* analysis. Meanwhile, the Sustainable Development Implementation Report (SDIR) is an *ex post* report on achievement of SDIP implementation for a specific monitoring period. Both SDIP and SDIR can help raise awareness of SD impacts and thereby facilitate technology transfer, build capacity, increase social welfare and reduce emissions.



Virender Kumar Duggal from ADB delivered the last presentation entitled **Quantifying Co-benefits of CDM projects supported by ADB's Future Carbon Fund (FCF)**. Mr. Duggal began to introduce the ADB's FCF, which provides financial support to climate mitigation projects in Asia and the Pacific. The co-benefits delivered by the FCF projects were assessed using a methodology to track the social, environmental, and economic impacts of the projects; pertinent impacts were then mapped onto relevant SDGs. He emphasised the CDM projects supported by the FCF presented not only qualitative but also quantitative analysis of co-

benefits, including improved energy access and energy security, employment generation, health benefits, and the diffusion of low-carbon technologies. He also presented challenges in factoring co-benefits into climate investment decisions such as the lack of information on the baselines, limits of quantifying co-benefits, lack of standardised methodologies on assessing co-benefits etc. In conclusion, he emphasised the importance of collaboration with local communities in decision-making process, early integration of co-benefits into the project's design, deeper consideration of corporate social responsibility programme, and securing streams of finance.

Following the presentations, a panel of policymakers in Asia shared similar experiences with tools for assessing the co-benefits for climate projects. **Albert Magalang** from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Philippines, agreed the new rulebook from COP 26 is an achievement but noted a need for guidelines on systematically quantifying co-benefits. He therefore stressed the need for further capacity building opportunities to learn more on co-benefits quantification tools.

Bouneua Khamphilavanh, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Lao PDR shared the efforts that Laos has made to recognise the SD impacts of their climate projects; for example, he pointed to a UNEP project that is aimed at assessing climate finance flows in official development assistance (ODA). Similar to other countries, Lao PDR also has developed national guidelines for JCM. He nonetheless felt there is a need to not only assess but better monitor the SD contributions of climate actions.

Akibi Tsukui of IGES introduced the role IGES is playing in supporting JCM project. IGES has been conducted the analysis on the linkage between JCM and SDGs through both quantitative and qualitative indicators. It found, for instance, that installing solar panels could deliver positive impacts for SDG 13 and other goals. She further highlighted working on SD could be expanded to cover the engagement from various stakeholders and emphasised JCM potential would be maximized when there is an effort to assess co-benefits early in the decision making process.

UPCOMING WEBINARS

- *Tools and Methods for Implementing Projects and Policies with Climate and Sustainable Development Co-benefits: The Case of Air Pollution*, 14 January 2022
- *Assessing and Reporting Climate and Sustainable Development Impacts of Mitigation Actions and Policies under the Paris Agreement*, 3 Feb 2022
- *Solutions for Air Pollution, Climate Change and Health: Working Across the Nexus*, 24 Feb 2022