

ACTIVATING THE CO-BENEFITS FOR A SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT



COP24 Briefing on key discussion items on the Paris Rulebook

- **Current Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) to the Paris Agreement, when added up, are a long way off from getting even close to meeting the agreed target** of holding global temperatures well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels¹.
- **The Paris Agreement** has created a unique platform to build political commitment but it **falls short on mobilizing social and economic opportunities (co-benefits) of ambitious and timely climate action.**
- **The COP24 decisions related to the Paris Rulebook will determine to what extent social and economic co-benefits can be mobilized to effectively implement the Paris Agreement and to facilitate a just transition.**

The term **'Co-Benefits'**, in some contexts referred to as Sustainable Development/SD Benefits signifies simultaneously meeting several interests or objectives resulting from a political intervention, private sector investment or a mix thereof. Co-beneficial approaches to climate change mitigation are those that also promote positive outcomes in other areas, such as air quality and health, economic prosperity and resource efficiency.

Key recommendations to activate the Co-Benefits in the COP24 decisions on the Paris Rulebook

Paris Work Programme	Paris Agreement	Proposed action
APA Item 3	PA Art. 4	Recommend to include a 'Co-benefits' section in NDC to display and communicate social and economic opportunities of the commitment
APA Item 5	PA Art. 13	Recommend to connecting existing national socio-economic and sustainability monitoring schemes to the enhanced transparency framework under the Paris Agreement
SBSTA Item 12b (APA Item 3 and 5)	PA Art. 6	<p>Tasking the Supervisory Body</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ to recommend a set of principles to guide the assessment and reporting of Co-Benefits (SD Benefits) of climate change mitigation activities and ■ to establish a resource base of recommended and validated tools for evaluating Co-Benefits (SD Benefits).²
APA Item 8 SBI Item 15 SBSTA Item 13	PA Art. 9	Recommend Climate Finance to facilitate flagship projects to showcase non-climate co-benefits (lighthouse effect) and strengthening the consideration of co-benefits in project selection criteria of climate funds.

¹ UNEP 2017, CAT 2017

² building on instruments such as the NDC Toolbox Navigator and acknowledging the evaluation of the CDM Sustainable Development Co-Benefits tool

Co-Benefits Option 1/4: **Encourage parties to portraying the co-benefits of the intended efforts in the NDC**

In terms of mitigating climate change Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) are more than technical documents. They are showcases for national and international audiences of the contribution and global responsibility a country is willing to take in reducing its GHG emissions.

In the current NDC revision process some countries like Vietnam have decided that their NDC should also be a means to communicate how climate action can simultaneously leverage social and economic opportunities for their countries by including a 'Co-Benefits' section in their NDC.

Besides rallying domestic support for climate action, co-benefits sections in NDCs (voluntary) can spark imitation and contribute to building global momentum for building a strong alliance for ambitious and early climate action.

Recommended action:

APA Item 3	PA Art. 4	Include a co-benefits section in NDC to display and communicate social and economic opportunities of the commitment³
------------	-------------	--

Co-Benefits Option 2/4: **Co-Benefits in the Enhanced Transparency Framework: Tracking progress, communicating successes**

The Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) for action and support has been established under the Paris Agreement to foster accountability by tracking progress on meeting national climate commitment.

With limited effort the ETF also could become the framework to showcase the social and economic opportunities of implementing the Paris Agreement and contribute to building global momentum for ambitious and early climate action. Given already substantial mandatory efforts for Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) of GHG emissions, the Co-Benefits reporting within the ETF should be based on voluntariness and can tap on existing domestic socio-economic or sustainability monitoring schemes, to minimize additional efforts.

Examples of synergies with existing schemes include green economy progress reports, official socio-economic development reports or reportings related to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In addition, the ETF can provide the guidance, platform and tools of good international practice to support and communicate national co-benefits reports in the ETF.

Recommended action:

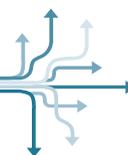
APA Item 5	PA Art. 13	Reducing effort, maximizing impact: Connecting existing national socio-economic and sustainability monitoring schemes to the enhanced transparency framework under the Paris Agreement⁴
------------	--------------	---

³ relates to **APA1.6.Informal.1.Add.1 Informal note – Co-Chair tool for APA item 3 (Aug 2018)** suggests to include under (1) **streamlined list of substantive elements**:

- Potential climate benefits and co-benefits in other areas resulting from the implementation of the NDCs
- Best practices and experience related to the preparation of the NDCs as well as under (2) **additional information on the mitigation target of the NDC** to provide:
- Information on their enhanced mitigation efforts and information on possible benefits and effects to be 310 achieved correspondent to different scales of support to be received.

⁴ relates to **APA1-6.IN.i5 Informal document - Revised additional tool under APA item 5 (Sep 2018)**

- under 'C.2. National Circumstances and Institutional Arrangements' suggests:
 6. Each Party [shall][should] provide information on the social and economic impact of response measures, based on full cooperation, to enhance understanding of their economic and social consequences, taking into account the need for information from those affected, [and evidence of actual impacts], and of both positive and negative effects
- under 'C.4. Information necessary to track progress made in implementing its nationally determined contribution under Article 4 to date' suggests
 7. h. Information on mitigation co-benefits resulting from adaptation policies, strategies, measures, actions and/or economic diversification plans and how they contribute to achieving the nationally determined contribution under Article 4



Co-Benefits Option 3/4: Ensuring the SDM delivers on its sustainability promise

The Sustainable Development Mechanism (SDM) has been introduced with Article 6.4 of the Paris Agreement as instrument to facilitate voluntary cooperation and support sustainable development while contributing to the mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions.

The SDM can be a key instrument for promoting social and economic co-benefits of ambitious and early climate action and building global momentum to seize the opportunities presented. In doing so the activated SDM needs to respond to the repeated criticism to the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) of lacking a stringent approach to foster sustainable development and for disregarding environmental and social costs.

Recommended action:

SBSTA Item 12b (APA Item 3 and 5)	PA Art. 6	Tasking the Supervisory Body⁵ <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ to recommend a set of principles to guide the assessment and reporting of Co-Benefits (SD Benefits) of climate change mitigation activities and■ to establish a resource base of recommended and validated tools for evaluating Co-Benefits (SD Benefits).⁶
--------------------------------------	-------------	---

Co-Benefits Option 4/4: Climate Finance après Paris: investing into co-benefits lighthouses

Climate Finance, through schemes such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF), can play an integral role in showcasing social and economic opportunities of serious climate change mitigation efforts. It can provide decision makers with strong political arguments alongside the global climate agenda.

To this end climate finance instruments should be tailored to enable national and regional lighthouse projects of climate action to illustrate real and quantifiable co-benefits and create momentum beyond the individual projects. In dynamic industries in sectors with a strong GHG reduction potential, such as energy and transport, the investment incentives for early movers not only help to develop the market for low carbon industries but at the same time provide policy makers with the evidence of country-specific opportunities to harness support for ambitious and early climate action.

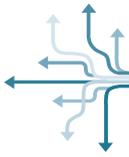
Recommended action:

APA Item 8 SBI Item 15 SBSTA Item 13	PA Art. 9	Recommend Climate Finance to facilitate flagship projects to showcase non-climate co-benefits (lighthouse effect) and strengthening the consideration of co-benefits in project selection criteria of climate funds.
--	-------------	---

⁵ relates to **APA-SBSTA-SBI.2018.Informal.2.Add.2 Joint reflections note by the presiding officers of the APA, the SBSTA and the SBI (Oct 2018)**

- V. Role of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement: 10. The CMA may provide guidance to the Supervisory Body by taking decisions on {potential list below}: (a) The rules of procedure of the Supervisory Body;
- IV. Internationally transferred mitigation outcomes/⁴. Scope⁷: Option A3 {emission reductions, removals and full spectrum} (c) Emission reductions, removals and the full spectrum of mitigation outcomes, including mitigation co-benefits of adaptation actions and/or economic diversification plans; and Option A4 {all of the above} (d) Emission reductions, removals, emissions avoided and the full spectrum of mitigation outcomes, including mitigation co-benefits of adaptation actions and/or economic diversification plans;
- VI. Work programme activities/Option A1 {a list of activities}
(v) Opportunities for and/or approaches to co-benefits, including: a. Leveraging and generating mitigation and adaptation co-benefits; b. Incorporating the mitigation co-benefits from adaptation actions and/or economic diversification as outcomes of activities

⁶ building on instruments such as the NDC Toolbox Navigator and acknowledging the evaluation of the CDM Sustainable Development Co-Benefits tool



The global COBENEFITS project powered by IKI

This COP24 Briefing has been developed in the context of the global COBENEFITS project.

The COBENEFITS project is coordinated by the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS) in the framework of Germany's International Climate Initiative (IKI) and supports partner countries in assessing the domestic co-benefits of ambitious and early climate action and seizing these opportunities in enabling political environments.



For more information, see www.cobenefits.info #cobenefits  [IKI_COBENEFITS](https://twitter.com/IKI_COBENEFITS)

Supported by:



INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE INITIATIVE (IKI)



based on a decision of the German Bundestag

Contact at COP24:

Sebastian Helgenberger, IASS Potsdam (sebastian.helgenberger@iass-potsdam.de),
COBENEFITS Project Director

Konrad Gürtler, IASS Potsdam (konrad.guertler@iass-potsdam.de)

