

The Interdisciplinary Global Working Group on Short-Lived Climate Pollutants (IG-WG on SLCPs)

Synopsis

The *Interdisciplinary Global Working Group (IG-WG) on Short-Lived Climate Pollutants (SLCPs)* is an internationally diverse collection of experts from academia, public service, the private sector, and civil society. Our focus is on exploring and sharing knowledge about how emerging SLCP mitigation initiatives can be effectively integrated across sectors and scales within the intertwined contexts of development, air pollution, and climate change.

The IG-WG's primary objectives are to identify common interests between stakeholders with diverse policy goals – particularly those of climate change mitigation, air pollution abatement, and socio-economic development – while deepening interactions with communities of practice that have the experience to implement effective SLCP mitigation strategies. Wherever possible, we aim to identify the likely co-benefits of SLCP mitigation for achieving these policy goals, and leverage them to build collaborative relationships between diverse stakeholders. In some cases, however, we recognise that trade-offs between these policy goals are inevitable; in such cases we aim to provide rigorous analysis of the available choices and their implications, along with discussion fora in which these trade-offs can be openly discussed.

The IG-WG is coordinated and initially funded by the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS), but will develop a global network of advisors, partner institutions and funding sources as its activities expand.

Motivation and Objectives

Recent scientific studies (summarised in the UNEP/WMO 2011 *Integrated Assessment of Black Carbon and Tropospheric Ozone*) have demonstrated that targeted reductions in the emission of specific SLCPs have the potential to prevent millions of premature deaths, avoid the loss of millions of tons of crops, and reduce the average global warming experienced over the next four decades by 0.5°C (range 0.2-0.7°C). The obvious desirability of these outcomes has attracted increasing political attention to SLCP mitigation over the past few years, which has prompted the launch of several regional and global policy initiatives, including the international Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) in February 2012.

However, the long-term effective mitigation of SLCP impacts requires strategies for mobilizing experience and expertise from diverse policy, enterprise, and scientific stakeholder groups involved in infrastructure and service provision, air quality management, and climate change mitigation. The complex and cross-sectoral range of SLCP (and precursor) emission sources; the array of interconnected policy arenas (spanning air pollution, public health, energy systems, climate change, ecosystem protection, food security, urban and rural infrastructure planning, sustainable development goals, and more); and the considerable variance in the policy priorities of different regional and local authorities all present significant challenges for the formulation and implementation of effective, coherent, and coordinated strategies across the diverse contexts where SLCP mitigation action is required. Thus far, many of the existing initiatives for SLCP mitigation target a narrow subset of relevant groups and policy priorities and there is limited strategic coordination between proliferating initiatives.

In this context, the primary objective of the IG-WG is to broker improved, action-oriented relationships between targeted policy and stakeholder groups. The IG-WG and its partners will focus particularly on identifying and building relationships that are both important for the effective SLCP mitigation and presently not developed to their full potential. Frameworks that interactively engage and enhance the capacities of public institutions, private investment incentives and societal mobilization will be at the forefront of the IG-WG's work. And while the inherent value of all stakeholders' (and all initiatives') specific policy goals will be recognised and supported, the IG-WG aims to identify and support integrated for SLCP mitigation frameworks that provide maximum benefits across the broadest possible array of policy goals and sectors.

Activities and Timeline

The IG-WG will meet its objectives by facilitating dialogue and information exchange between stakeholder groups who may not otherwise meet; creating new, integrated, knowledge products that are accessible to a

broad audience; disseminating these strategically in targeted contexts; and extracting and documenting lessons from particular experience that might be applied to similar cases in different regions of the world. To this end, the major **activities** of the IG-WG will fall under the broad categories of:

- (1) Organizing meetings between key representatives of targeted stakeholder groups;
- (2) Producing publications and seminars (disseminated through a variety of multimedia channels) that highlight the value of and potential mechanisms for improving identified relationships; *and*
- (3) Supporting selected organizations/initiatives to develop the capacity to similarly broker relationships between diverse stakeholder groups.

The IG-WG **methodology** for project identification, development and execution will be based roughly around three (iterated) steps: mapping existing relationships between stakeholder groups; identifying and targeting opportunities for improving (or creating) potentially high-impact relationships within that broad landscape; and designing IG-WG activities that can contribute to strengthening the cumulative effectiveness of integrated SLCP mitigation strategies. Within this broad framework, the IG-WG is currently focused on several **central themes**:

- Integration of SLCP mitigation priorities into infrastructure design processes (with specific attention to synergies with development finance priorities and ongoing infrastructure investment programs),
- Effective structuring of the ‘knowledge systems’ underpinning integrated SLCP policy development, implementation and monitoring (i.e. deepening the flow of information between scientific research, technology development, project financing, impact monitoring, and other aspects of focusing and implementing mitigation efforts),
- Integration of SLCP mitigation into international governance architectures for effective global climate risk reduction including the exploration of potentials in private-public-partnerships.

As appropriate for each stage of its work, the IG-WG will (with support from advisors, partner institutions and engaged stakeholders and initiatives) conduct targeted surveys and interviews; organize expert workshops; and convene dialogues and meetings between targeted stakeholder group representatives. Where valuable, the IG-WG will raise additional funding to support expanded research and engagement capabilities. All activities will be documented and made available online (<http://climpol.iass-potsdam.de>).

The IG-WG will hold its inaugural workshop at IASS (Potsdam, Germany) on 13-15 December 2012, to select projects and hone its work plans for 2013. An *Insights and Perspectives on SLCP Mitigation webinar series* is also being launched in October 2012 (details available on website: <http://climpol.iass-potsdam.de>).

Membership, Advisors and Partners Projects/Institution

Core membership of the IG-WG consists of roughly twelve experts with experience and expertise collectively spanning the natural and social sciences; legislative, regulatory and administrative public institutions; civil society organisations (particularly with environmental and development foci); and the private and financial sectors. In addition, the IG-WG also draws upon a global network of partner institutions and internationally renowned advisors to guide and support its work.

| Working Group Members | Advisors | Partner Projects/Institutions |
|---|--|--|
| Julia Schmale (Chair, IASS) Jessica Seddon (Co-Chair, Okapi Research) Jason J Blackstock (Co-Chair, Univ. of Oxford) Erika von Schneidemesser (IASS) Chris Tyler (UK Parliament) Gregor Feig (South African Weather Service) Rebecca Garland (CSIR) Michele Acuto (Univ. of Oxford) Jennifer Burney (Stanford & UCSD) | Mark Lawrence (IASS) Ilan Chabay (IASS) Myles Allen (Univ. of Oxford) – <i>Invited</i> Veerabhadran Ramanathan (SCRIPPS) - <i>Invited</i> Klaus Töpfer (IASS) - <i>Invited</i> | European Environment Agency Atmospheric Brown Cloud (ABC) initiative of UNEP Climate and Cryosphere (CliC) project of WCRP International Global Atmospheric Chemistry (IGAC) project of IGBP Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) – <i>Invited</i> |