

# Co-benefits

A Personal Thought Starter

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# Contents

- **What are potential “co-benefits”?**
- **Barriers? Can climate change be an opportunity for sustainable development?**
- **Discussions.**

# Co-benefits?

- Can be defined as **“Potential benefits of climate mitigation actions for the areas outside of climate change framework”**.

**For example,**

- **Reduction of pollution: avoidance of health problems and costs involved.**
- **Natural environmental conservation and improvement, e.g., by carbon sequestration actions.**
- **Reduction of wastage of natural resources and energy.**
- **Introduction of environmentally more efficient technologies and practices.**
- **Allocation of investments and resources appropriate in a long-term – such as, through reduction of environmentally harmful subsidies or taxes that may enhance greenhouse gas emissions.**
- **induce innovative technological change and diffusion.**
- **provision of technologies and investments for developing countries.**
- **increase of employment and generation of new markets.**
- **Improve long-term community efficiency and facilitation of sustainable development paths.**
- **Fostering international solidarity and mutual understanding.**

## **However, they are not always automatically achievable.**

- **Some climate mitigation actions can be spontaneously done, but mostly not.**
- **Co-benefits can obviously facilitate mitigation actions (politically, financially and technologically).**
- **Co-benefits can be achievable most efficiently with policy actions based on proper recognition of the benefits that may need to be valued as a totality, and with supportive policy actions appreciating synergy.**

# Barriers – institutional

- **Sectoral administration is not good at handling synergies – even in environmental policies!**
- **Investment into future needs good persuasion.**
- **Many co-benefits are long-term, and are perceived only as philosophical advocacy.**

# Barriers - methodologically

- **Quantitative evaluation of co-benefits is a challenge.**
- **Systematic policy tools still need to be developed or tested.**
- **International dialogues and cooperation are often very sectoral.**

# **To make it an opportunity --**

- **CDM-type schemes of a future regime might need to be made more flexible.**
- **ODA, etc. may need to be involved, to take account of the values of co-benefits, through, e.g.;**
  - **GHGs mitigation .... < Climate regime.**
  - **Co-benefits that contribute to sustainable development .... < ODA, etc.**
- **Awareness is the prerequisite basis.**

# References

- IPCC Third Assessment Report – WG-III Mitigation
  - SPM - <http://www.ipcc.ch/pub/wg3spm.pdf>
  - TS - <http://www.ipcc.ch/pub/wg3TARtechsum.pdf>
  - Full - [http://www.grida.no/climate/ipcc\\_tar/wg3/index.htm](http://www.grida.no/climate/ipcc_tar/wg3/index.htm)
- Submissions for Government Expert Seminar at COP10
  - <http://unfccc.int/meetings/seminar/items/3410.php>
- CDM, TechTrans, etc.
  - <http://unfccc.int/2860.php>
- IPCC AR4 Cross-cutting Issues: Technology
  - <http://www.ipcc.ch/activity/cct7.pdf>