

Side-Event, GEF Assembly, Cancun, Mexico
Short-Lived Climate Pollutants: Challenge and Opportunity
Monday 26 May 2014, 17:45-19:15, Room Tulum

Short lived climate pollutants (SLCPs) are substances that are relatively short lived in the atmosphere – a few days to a few decades, compared to long-lived greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide. The main SLCPs are black carbon, methane, tropospheric ozone, and many hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs). Except for HFCs, they are also dangerous air pollutants that have detrimental impacts on human health, agriculture and ecosystems.

Compelling scientific evidence indicates that fast action to reduce SLCPs, especially methane and black carbon, has the potential to slow down global warming by 0.5°C between 2010 and 2050, as well as prevent more than two million premature deaths each year and annual crop losses of more than 50 million tonnes after 2030. Furthermore, it is urgent to find alternatives to the use of HFCs in order to avoid the substantial build-up of these substances in the atmosphere and their significant impact on global warming.

The GEF has supported a spectrum of initiatives that directly or indirectly reduce the release of SLCPs into the atmosphere. The GEF started its support towards reduction of SLCPs through methane reduction and recovery projects. The GEF-6 Climate Change Mitigation strategy expands support available for this topic in its programs.

Recognizing the urgent and collective challenge to address SCLP at a global level, the voluntary partnership of the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) was established in 2012 to translate the science into policy and action. The CCAC which has today almost 90 partners, including 40 states, and a number of non-state organization including the UN Environment Programme and the World Bank. UNEP is also hosting the Secretariat of the Coalition. The CCAC is currently working around 10 high-impact initiatives for concrete and transformative actions to catalyze major reductions of SLCPs in relevant sectors such as heavy duty diesel engines, brick kilns, cook stoves and domestic heating, municipal solid waste, or oil and gas production.

The side event will focus on presenting and discussing the following SLCP mitigation initiatives:

- 1. SLCPs in the global environment agenda and Mexico's engagement - Rodolfo Lacy, Vice minister of Planning and Environmental Policy, SEMARNAT**
- 2. The SLCP Challenge and Opportunity and the work of the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) - Ruth Coutto, UNEP-GEF and representative of the CCAC Secretariat**
- 3. World Bank's Engagement in Addressing SLCPs : Co-benefits for Development – Laurent Granier, WB and Fernando Cisneros, FIRCO**
- 4. GEF and Opportunities to Address SLCPs – Junu Shrestha, GEF Secretariat**
- 5. Interventions and questions from the floor**
- 6. Closing remarks - Rodolfo Lacy, Vice minister of Planning and Environmental Policy, SEMARNAT**