

Short lived climate pollutants: issues for policymakers



Adrian Macey, November 2012

Status quo - 2013-2020

- List of gases – amended for CP2
- A common metric – 100 year GWPs
- A basket of gases – fungibility for accounting, trading

Current action

- Some second thoughts from scientists
- UNFCCC to address metrics:
 - Kyoto Protocol – SBSTA to review from 2015
 - Convention – SBSTA to review + an “event”
- IPCC AR5 addressing metrics – but how well?
- Note inertia of status quo
- A window of opportunity to incorporate any revisions into the post 2020 ADP outcome

Policy questions

- Common metric – is there a better alternative to 100 yr GWP?
- Keep the basket, or take one or more gases (e.g. CH₄) out?
 - Distinguish between biological and other methane?
- Should there be more concentration on CO₂?
- How far should action on SLCPs be incorporated into UNFCCC ?

Thoughts...

- SLCP action must not be at the expense of CO₂ reduction
- Action on short lived pollutants more important if global peaking and reduction goals are defined (peaking year; X% reduction by year Y)
- Balance between simplicity and scientific exactitude needed
- Potential implications for agricultural producing countries need assessing
- Need a stronger science-policy dialogue to unlock these issues