

Global Atmospheric Pollution Forum



# Short-Lived Climate Forcers: Aims and Activities of the GAP Forum

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# Aims of the Global Atmospheric Pollution Forum

- Promotes dialogue, co-operation and joint activity among regional air pollution organisations on the practical challenges facing them
- Encourage harmonization of systems and approaches to facilitate co-operation at inter-continental, hemispheric and global scales
- Provides a forum for debate on wider issues of common concern, such as the interaction of climate change and pollution, and the policies and institutions needed to tackle hemispheric and global pollution.
- Encourages the establishment of new regional networks where they do not currently exist, and capacity-building in those regions where lack of resources poses a severe constraint on necessary action

# GAP Forum: Partnership of International Organizations and Regional Air Pollution Networks

- LAC Intergovernmental Network on Air Pollution
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- UNEP-sponsored networks and programmes in East and South Asia
- UN Economic Commission for Europe/Convention on (UNECE) Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (LRTAP)
- Air Pollution Information Network for Africa (APINA)
- Clean Air Task Force (CATF)
- Clean Air Initiative – Asian Cities; Latin America, Africa
- Asian Co-benefits Partnership
- International Cryosphere Climate Initiative (ICCI)

*Secretariat: IUAPPA and SEI*

# GAP Forum: Three Core Areas of Activity

1. Establishing or strengthening regional air pollution networks;
2. Harmonizing technical systems and information between regions (e.g. on emissions, monitoring, impact and mitigation approaches);
3. Building consensus among regional groups and stakeholders (towards possible hemispheric or global frameworks for air pollution).



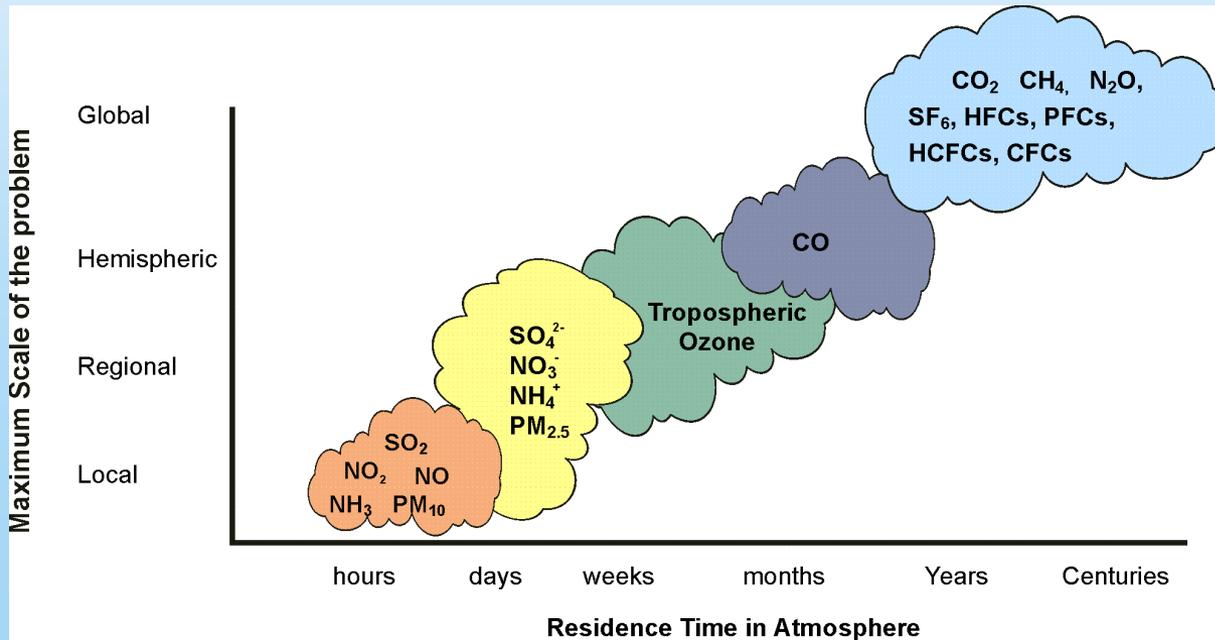
# INTEGRATING CLIMATE CHANGE AND AIR POLLUTION

*Recognised in early discussions as a pathway to more effective and integrated global atmospheric management*

1. Very close connection in sources, effects and mitigation options
2. A rational approach suggests common, or at least linked approaches
3. This tends not to happen
4. Why? What solutions can we provide?

# Challenges and Opportunities

- Dealing with air pollution across the scales
- Moving from assessment to action
- Creating awareness of true costs of poor air quality and benefits in key stakeholders
- Integration of climate change and air pollution policies producing co-benefits



# ‘Air Pollution and Climate Change: Developing a Framework for Integrated Co-benefits Strategies’

- Hosted by Sweden, funded by Sida, September 2008
- Held under the auspices of the Convention on LRTAP and UNEP, in consultation with the UNFCCC secretariat
- 110 scientists and policy experts from 35 countries, including Asia, Africa, Latin America, Europe, North America and Australia from air pollution and climate communities
- Organized by Forum Secretariat (IUAPPA and SEI)

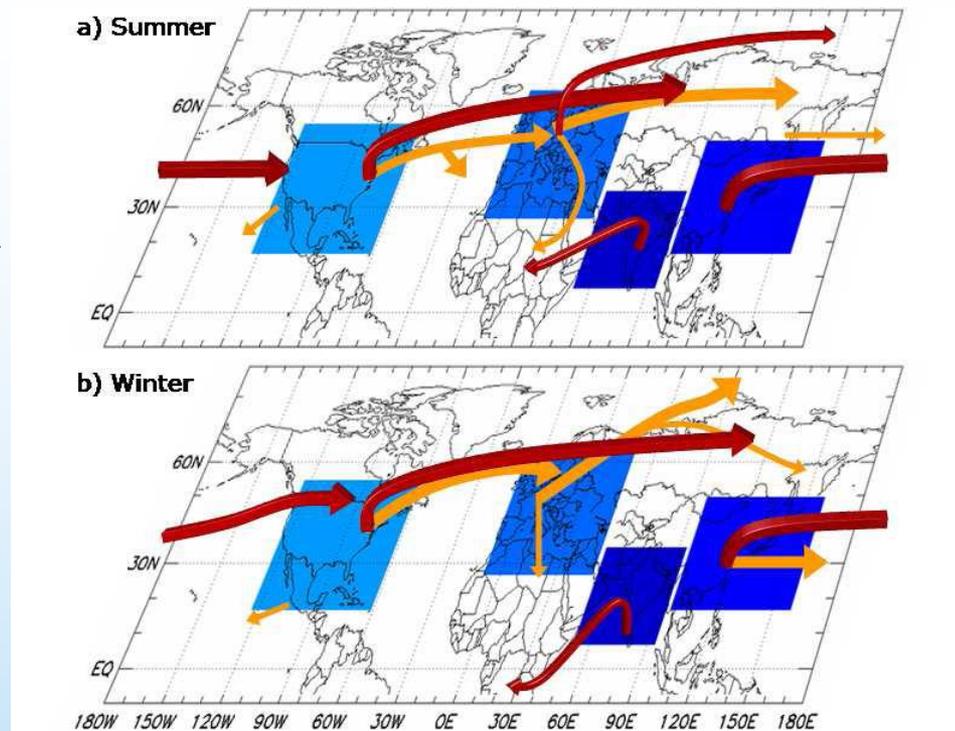


# Key Stockholm 2008 Conclusions

- Urgent action to decrease the concentrations of ground-level ozone, black carbon and methane in the atmosphere would provide opportunities, not only for significant air pollution benefits (e.g. health benefits for all pollutants and crop-yield benefits for ozone), but also for rapid climate benefits, by helping to slow global warming and avoid crossing critical temperature and environmental thresholds.
- Need for a global assessment - comprehensive review of the issues and available evidence.
- The national level may be the most important for the development of co-benefit strategies, since the content and focus of such strategies are likely to differ from region to region and country to country.
- Major opportunities exist in developing countries now establishing air quality management systems, which can be integrated with climate strategies from the start.

# LRTAP Convention Developments

## Expert Group on Black Carbon & inclusion of Black Carbon in the Gothenburg Protocol



## Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution (HTAP)

# UNEP and other developments

- UNEP/WMO Global Assessment of Black Carbon and Tropospheric Ozone reports early in 2011
- UNEP/WMO Assessment on Agenda of UNEP Governing Council February 2011; further work agreed towards an action plan
- US EPA report on Black Carbon – response to call from Senate
- IGAC report ‘Bounding Black Carbon’ – due ?
- IPCC AR5 is looking at SLCFs

# Scientific/economic challenges in incorporating air pollutants/SLCFs in global climate agreements

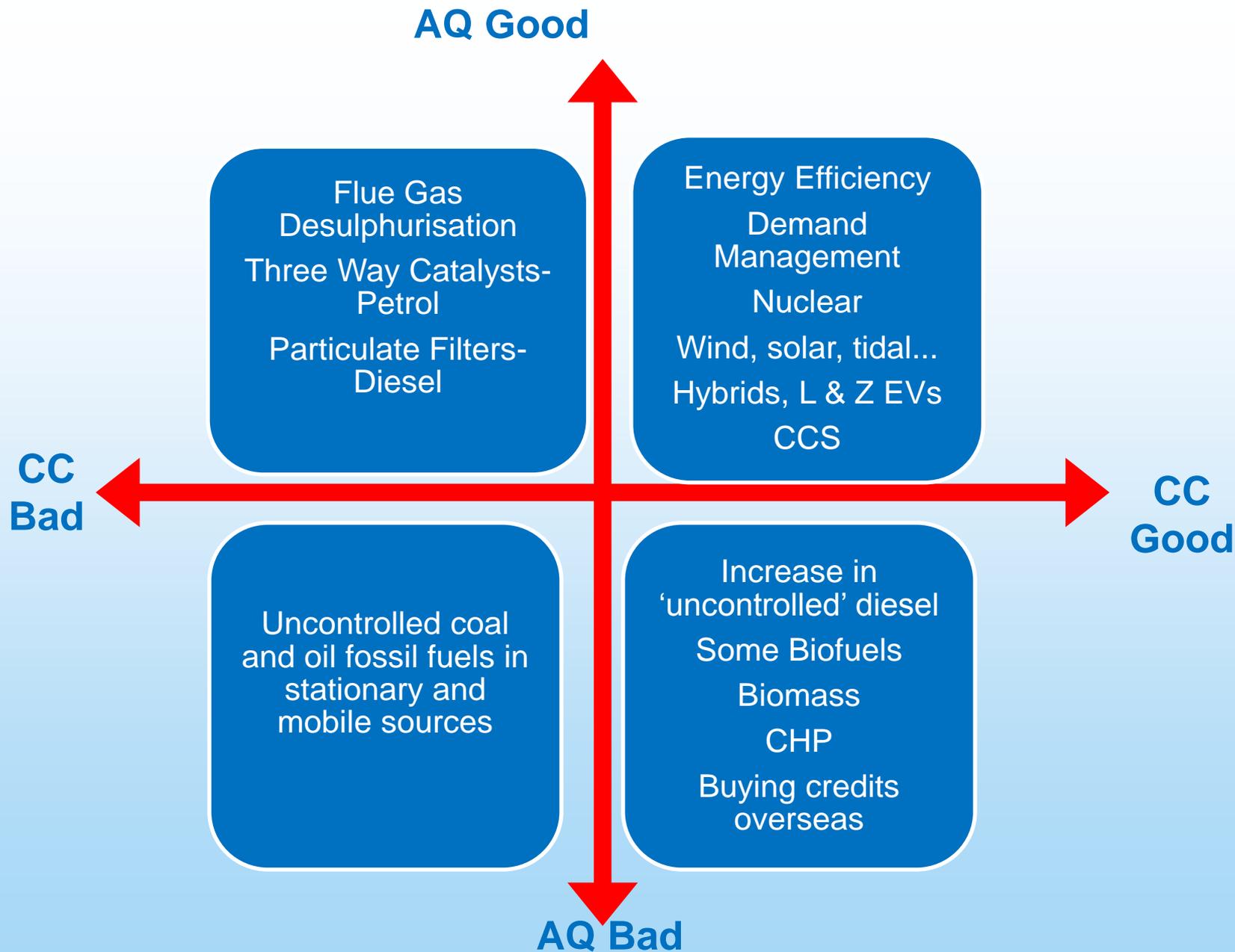
- Existing agreements use GWP100-not ideal for SLCFs
- Regional impacts of SLCFs are important-Arctic, Himalaya
- Location of emission matters for SLCFs, so controls do not sit comfortably with emission trading
- Knowledge of radiative forcing/climate impacts of SLCFs is uncertain
- Impacts on health, crops and ecosystems is better quantified

# Policy challenges in management of Air Pollutants/SLCFs

- Inclusion in global instrument(s) (e.g. UNFCCC) would add complexity to an already difficult process
- Comparing and weighing short term and longer term impacts is difficult
- Local pollution impacts more important for (developing) countries? Health, Himalayas, Arctic
- Global climate mitigation policies heavily reliant on trading – not appropriate for SLCFs (but could CDM be incentivised to favour local air quality improvements?)

# Implications for Developing Countries

- Developing nations and the poor suffer most from air pollution and climate change – need “win-win” solutions
- As developing countries are in the early stages of formulating policies and programmes to address both issues, integration is simpler than with the complex, established systems of developed countries



# Possible models for managing SLCFs (1)

- Incorporate in UNFCCC?

**Pros:** Single forum for all climate agents

**Cons:** Added complexity

Compare GHGs and SLCFs – GWPs?

Takes pressure off GHGs?

Less emphasis on air quality damage?

# Possible models for managing SLCFs (2)

- New global air quality treaty?

**Pros:** Offers forum for shared experiences, common standards on technology, products

**Cons:** Issues are local and regional so why establish global treaty? What would Parties commit to do that was substantive? Negotiating time and complexity.

## Possible models for managing SLCFs (3)

- Build on existing regional air quality agreements?

**Pros:** Politically more feasible?

Co-benefits of air quality abatement are large

Uses existing structures

Solutions/targets can be 'customised' locally

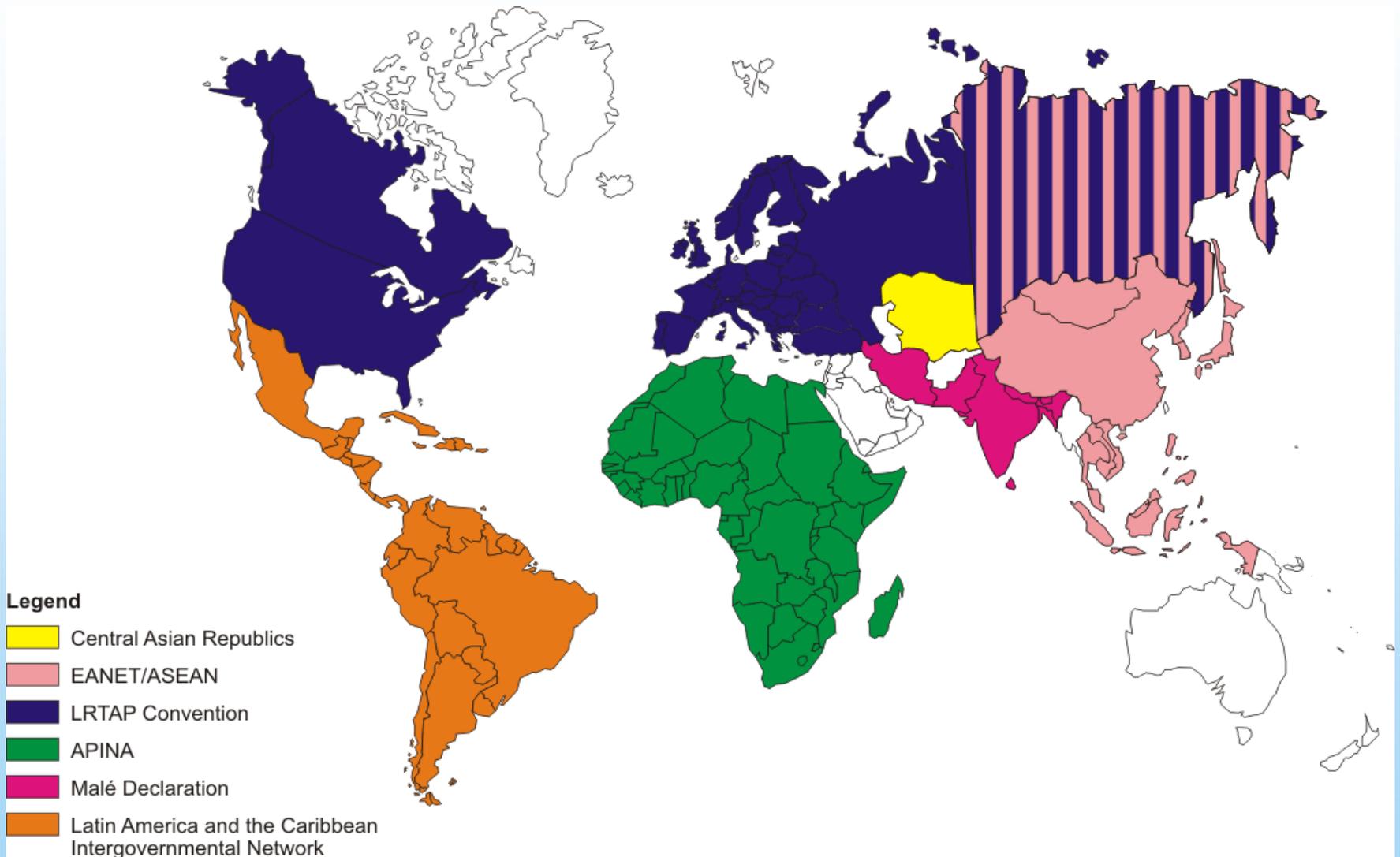
Could link targets with climate policies

Platforms exist and could be used as  
exemplars – CLRTAP

Science is already being 'globalised'- HTAP

**Cons:** Suspicion of negotiating climate 'by the back door'

# Regional Air Pollution Networks



# Future GAP Forum Activities

- SLCF strategies and action plans for developing countries
- Technical work on feasibility of implementing SLCF measures in different regions
- Continue work on proposals for systems and institutions to strengthen global co-operation on air pollution
- Consensus building through website, newsletters, presentations and discussion documents
- Capacity building through working with regional networks and promoting GAP Forum assessment manuals

**Thank You**



**GLOBAL  
ATMOSPHERIC  
POLLUTION  
FORUM**

# Forum's progress in promoting intergovernmental networks

## Asia:

UNEP, CAI-Asia, Malé Declaration, EANET and ASEAN starting to initiate inter-regional intergovernmental talks

## Latin America:

Secretariat, IANABIS, CAI-LA and UNEP recently achieved a ministerial agreement to set up a science to policy network at intergovernmental level across Latin America

## Africa:

APINA, UNEP, CAI-Africa, USEPA , SEI promoting sub-regional workshops in central, northern, southern, western and eastern Africa