

Beyond Climate.

Options for broadening climate policy

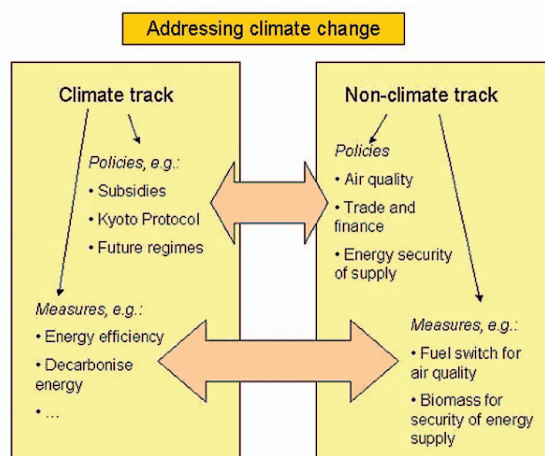
A joint report published by six Dutch research institutions explores ways to increase the policy coherence between the climate regime and a selected number of climate relevant policy areas, by adding a non-climate policy track to national and international climate strategies. The report concludes that the non-climate policy track offers considerable potential to enhance the implementation of climate beneficial development pathways to decrease the vulnerability of societies for climate change and/or result in less greenhouse gas emissions. Establishing linkages to energy security of supply, air pollution, and trade and finance appear to have a large potential for finding synergies. Examples of synergetic activities would be to increase energy efficiency, to agree on international trade agreements on biomass, or trade energy resources in exchange for clean technology support. This paper recommends specific policies and measures within a “non-climate track” for mitigation and adaptation that could be further pursued by policymakers.

Besides the UNFCCC and the national implementation of climate policies, an additional strategy may need to be developed as part of national and international climate policies. This study distinguishes between the ‘climate policy track’ and what is labelled as a ‘non-climate policy track’:

- the ‘climate track’ refers to climate policies that reside under the UNFCCC and its implementation, while
- the ‘non-climate policy track’ is defined as policies that contribute to realizing climate goals through other policy areas and focus on increased policy coherence and mainstreaming climate change concerns in relevant policy areas.

The report analyses particularly so-called bottom-up approaches to defining future climate mitigation commitments and the linkages with other policy areas. Such types of commitments are not based on quantitative emission targets as in the Kyoto Protocol, but on policy measures. It can thus be expected that these will allow more linkages with other policy areas than the top-down approaches based on emission reduction targets. Such bottom-up policies are likely to become more important in post-2012 climate regimes, as the group of countries with mitigation commitments may be extended to developing countries and become more diverse. In examining the strengths and weaknesses of bottom-up instruments for international climate policy making, it is concluded that they do not offer a full alternative to a climate regime defining quantified emission reduction and limitation targets. This is because they provide little certainty about the overall effectiveness of climate policies. However, they do offer particularly interesting opportunities for additional components of a future climate regime and for defining contributions of developing countries to mitigation and for enhancing the integration of climate policies in other areas of policy making, promoting sustainable development.

The analysis of the five policy areas, i.e. poverty, land-use, security of energy supply, trade and finance and air pollution and health, shows considerable potential for addressing climate



Climate and non-climate track interaction

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change through actions that can be taken to achieve primary policy objectives in other policy areas.

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Synergies and trade-offs with GHG mitigation options.

Issue	Area of interaction	Relevant countries or regions	Most promising option(s) for integrating climate change policy
Energy for development	Synergy: providing energy for development	Developing countries	Connecting rural households by means of renewable energy or improved traditional sources
	Synergy: more efficient use of energy	Global	Energy saving policies to reduce demand
Security of energy supply	Trade-off: use of coal to meet increasing energy demand	India, China, in particular	Policy package for more efficient and cleaner fossil fuel use and incentives for development of new low-CO ₂ coal technologies (including CO ₂ capture and storage)
	Synergy: reduced use of fossil fuels through use of renewable energy and other fuels	Energydependent countries with large potential for renewable energy	There are many interests that can be served by renewable energy sources application. For transport, fuel switch to gas and in the longer term to hydrogen. Countries and parties could be encouraged by helping them to see the benefits
	Trade-off: conviction enhancing renewables means an economic threat to energy-exporting regions in the world	OPEC, gas exporting countries, United States	Technological co-operation in climate-friendly fossil fuel applications: in fossil-based hydrogen, CO ₂ capture and storage & clean fossil fuel technologies
	Synergy: urban air pollution finds its causes in the same activities as greenhouse gas emissions	Global	Policy harmonisation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Energy conservation in supply and demand - For transport, fuel switch to gas and in the longer term to hydrogen, mass transit systems and vehicle maintenance programmes - Decentralised renewable energy for electricity, cooking and lighting;
Air pollution and health	Synergy: access to modern energy services in rural areas reduces indoor air pollution and GHG	Developing countries	Modern energy services by renewable energy, more efficient heating and cooking techniques and clean fossil fuels use
	Synergy: both ozone and soot are significant air pollutants; both are contributing to climate change	Global	Policy integration: include ozone and soot in climate negotiations, possibly in trading system
	Trade-off: energy subsidies favour greenhouse gas emitting activities	Global	Reduction or elimination of subsidies for fossil fuels, more subsidies for climate-friendly energy supply as part
Trade and finance	Trade-off: huge investments still targeted at fossil fuels	Global	Reduction or elimination of subsidies for fossil fuels, more subsidies for climate-friendly energy supply as part of electricity reform and liberalisation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reducing energy consumption so less investment is needed - Introducing GHG taxes or border tax adjustment to favour climate-friendly investments, goods, and services

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