



Methane to Markets

Future of Methane to Markets

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Background

- In 2004, 14 charter Partner governments signed the Methane to Markets Partnership Terms of Reference (TOR), in which they committed to taking action to reduce methane emissions.
- Since its launch, the Partnership has grown to include 30 Partners and more than 900 public and private sector organizations.
- The original TOR is now up for renewal. Partners have the opportunity to consider the future direction and scope of the Partnership.

Partnership Accomplishments

- Raised international awareness about the importance of methane and built a solid foundation for continued global efforts.
- Developed comprehensive Action Plans for each target methane sector to better identify the most significant barriers in each Partner country.
- Developed a wide array of tools and services that provide accurate and targeted information to the international methane community, helping to remove barriers and catalyze project development.
- Organized the world's largest gathering of the international methane community in Beijing, China in 2007. Featured 91 projects from around the world ~ yield annual methane emission reductions of 11.5 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MtCO₂eq).
- Tracking/supporting more than 150 methane emissions reductions projects around the world.

Potential Areas for Consideration

- **New and Increased Commitments:**
 - Undertake actions guided by country methane action plans (e.g., conduct emission and project opportunity inventories, assess project development needs and barriers, implement appropriate policies and measures).
 - Contribute financial or in-kind resources to support action plans.
 - Implement a more formal annual reporting process on national actions.

- **New Target Methane Emission Sources:**
 - Possible expansion to wastewater treatment, where mitigation actions yield clean energy benefits.
 - Broaden agriculture scope by including enteric fermentation and rice cultivation, which offer benefits beyond clean energy.

- **Enhanced Monitoring and Reporting:**
 - Establish a more formal process for bringing projects forward—either before or after they have confirmed partners and funding
 - Process could involve project registration and approval/endorsement, utilize the Project Database; and involve the tracking and monitoring of outcomes (e.g., key results such as methane reductions achieved).

Potential Areas (con't)

- Linkage to the UNFCCC process.
 - Assist countries with financial or action-oriented commitments taken under the UNFCCC, either on a sectoral or country-specific basis.
 - Build capacity to develop an international pipeline of methane offset projects that could be tapped through Kyoto's CDM/JI.
 - Support and complement future commitments and arrangements reflected in and/or linked to a post-2012 UNFCCC agreement, as well as other relevant international agreements and processes (e.g., The Arctic Council).

- Project Network and the Role of Development Banks.
 - Engage multilateral development banks (MDBs) in a more strategic manner/official capacity (e.g., official delegates on Steering Committee and Subcommittees).
 - Improve coordination with MDBs and facilitate the flow of funding to methane projects.
 - Increase access to MDB expertise on how best to facilitate capacity building in developing countries.

TOR Renewal/Ministerial Meeting

- New TOR development process:
 - Extend the existing TOR for set time period (e.g., one year) or until a new TOR is developed.
 - Establish process for modifying/renewing the TOR
 - Should process conclude with a Ministerial-level meeting/signing event

- Potential Ministerial Meeting timing options:
 - Hold Ministerial-level event in conjunction with the 2010 Expo.
 - Host a Methane to Markets Ministerial meeting in conjunction with another Ministerial-level meeting (e.g., COP).
 - Organize a stand-alone Methane to Markets Ministerial.

Items for Consideration

- Future Role: How do Partner countries view the potential future of the Methane to Markets Partnership within the international climate change environment? In addition to the issues raised above, what are some other ideas for consideration?
- Terms of Reference: Do Partner countries agree to extend the TOR for another year or until a Ministerial level meeting can be held to extend and expand the Partnership?
- Ministerial-Level Meetings: Does the Steering Committee wish to initiate planning for a Methane to Markets Ministerial meeting and if so, what would be the preferred option?
- Process Moving Forward: What is the process moving forward, is another meeting necessary? Who needs to be involved?