

Financing Sustainable Cooling: From National Plans to Investment Pipelines

Date: 13 July 2026

Time: 13:00 – 15:00 (UTC+7)

Venue: Theatre, United Nations Conference Centre (Rajadamnern Nok Avenue, Bangkok, Thailand)

Background

The session examines how countries can translate national cooling plans and climate commitments into finance-ready projects, stronger investment pipelines and practical delivery pathways.

It brings together bilateral cooperation, national policy experience, regional finance programmes and donor perspectives to identify where the transition from planning to investment breaks down, and what practical measures can close that gap.

The session directly supports implementation of the [Global Cooling Pledge](#), the world's first collective commitment to cut cooling-related emissions by 68% by 2050, while rapidly expanding access to sustainable cooling, particularly the commitment to publish National Cooling Action Plans (NCAPs) or equivalent measures by 2026, and informs the operationalisation of the [Enabling Pledge Implementation for Cooling Facility](#).

Event Objectives

- Identify barriers that prevent NCAPs and Kigali Implementation Plans from converting into investable project pipelines.
- Surface practical experience from Africa, China, the MENAT region and the donor community on what makes cooling projects finance-ready.
- Clarify what financial institutions need in order to engage with sustainable cooling as a bankable proposition.
- Inform the early operationalisation of the EPIC Facility and emerging work on sustainable cooling finance partnerships.

Agenda

Time	Item	Speaker
(5 min)	Opening remarks	Mr Amr Seleem , Country Engagement and Climate Policy Lead, UNEP Cool Coalition
(10 min)	Keynote: Turning cooling plans into finance-ready delivery pathways	Mr Thanavat Junchaya , Senior Environmental Engineer, World Bank
(30 min)	Panel discussion: From national plans to investment pipelines	<u>Moderator:</u> Mr Thanavat Junchaya, Senior Environmental Engineer, World Bank Dr Hu Jianxin, Professor, College of Environmental Sciences and Engineering, Peking University, China Ms Morgan Simpson, Policy Advisor, UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Mr Nils Hansen, Team Lead Africa, GIZ Proklima Mr Eslam Mahdy, Programme Manager, Cool Up
(15 min)	Q&A session	<u>Moderator:</u> Mr Amr Seleem , Country Engagement and Climate Policy Lead, UNEP Cool Coalition
(5 min)	Closing remarks	Ms Niroopa Kowlessar , Cooling Policy Specialist, UNEP Cool Coalition

Speaker details

Photo	Name and title	Bio
	Mr Nils Hansen Team Lead Africa, GIZ Proklima	Nils Hansen works as a Team Lead for GIZ Proklima's Africa portfolio. He joined the GIZ climate change team in 2008. Since 2020, his focus is on Green Cooling in Africa. GIZ Proklima is active in more than 15 countries on the continent, covering a wide range of cooling-related topics. This includes the financing of the transformation of the refrigeration and air conditioning sector towards the use natural refrigerants as a default.
	Dr Hu Jianxin Professor, College of Environmental Sciences and Engineering, Peking University, China	Professor Jianxin Hu has advised on many policies adopted over the last four decades in the phaseout and phasedown of CFCs, HCFCs, and HFCs in China. He took the lead in conducting the "Policy Landscape Analysis and Development of National Cooling Efficiency Strategy and Roadmap" (a research project ongoing during 2017-2019, supported by EF China). He participated in the drafting of the "China Green and High-Efficiency Cooling Action Plan" issued in 2019.
	Mr Thanavat Junchaya Senior Environmental Engineer, World Bank	Thanavat Junchaya is a Senior Environmental Engineer at the World Bank, where he works with the Climate Change Group and the Montreal Protocol coordination unit. His work focuses on supporting the implementation of Montreal Protocol projects with client countries, including coordination with the Multilateral Fund Secretariat and Ozone Secretariat, and cross-support to World Bank regional teams. He brings extensive experience in planning and implementing Montreal Protocol projects and in linking refrigerant transition with sustainable cooling delivery.
	Ms Niroopa Kowlessar Cooling Policy Specialist, UNEP Cool Coalition	An urban designer and architect specializing in passive cooling and climate-responsive urban development. Her work bridges design, policy, and climate adaptation, with a focus on supporting the integration of passive cooling and energy-efficient strategies into national and local housing frameworks. At Cool Coalition, Niroopa provides technical and strategic support to advance global efforts on sustainable cooling and urban heat adaptation. She contributes to the development of National Cooling Action Plans (NCAPs), National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), and policy guidance that help countries embed cooling within their broader climate and development agendas. Her work includes contributing to guidance notes, toolkits, and knowledge products that promote

		passive cooling, and supporting country and partner engagement under the Global Cooling Pledge.
	Mr Eslam Mahdy Programme Manager, Cool Up	Eslam leads projects on sustainable cooling, energy efficiency in buildings, and climate policy, advising governments on the development, design, and implementation related policy instruments, financial mechanisms, and integrated capacity building programs. Eslam holds a master's degree in sustainability from the University of Stuttgart and is a Certified Expert in Climate Finance from the Frankfurt School of Finance.
	Mr Amr Seleem Country Engagement and Climate Policy Lead, UNEP Cool Coalition	Amr Seleem is the Lead for Country Engagement and Climate Policy Support at UNEP Cool Coalition. With over 14 years of experience, he has worked with several international organizations including various roles at the UNFCCC Regional Collaboration Centre for MENA and South Asia, the UN High-level Climate Champions Team, IRENA, Aldi Süd, the German Embassy in Cairo, and the American University in Cairo. He has developed expertise in a wide range of areas, including climate and energy policies, climate mitigation and adaptation, climate technologies, decarbonization, and digitalization. He holds an M.Sc. in Sustainable Resource and Environmental Policy from the Technical University of Munich (TUM); an M.Sc. in Energy Engineering from the American University in Cairo (AUC); and a B.Sc. in Mechanical Engineering from Ain Shams University in Egypt.
	Ms Morgan Simpson Policy Advisor, UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	Morgan Simpson is a Policy Advisor at the UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), where she leads the UK's engagement on the Multilateral Fund under the Montreal Protocol. She is responsible for UK policy development and negotiations on Multilateral Fund issues, and manages the UK's bilateral portfolio under the MLF supporting ozone and climate action in Article 5 countries. Her work focuses on supporting effective implementation of the Montreal Protocol and Kigali Amendment, including financing, institutional strengthening, energy efficiency and sustainable cooling initiatives.