

USAID PROGRAM BRIEF

FOREST CARBON, MARKETS AND COMMUNITIES

OVERVIEW

Forest conservation and sustainable forest management are recognized as strategically important for mitigating and adapting to climate change. The global community is developing approaches for reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation and enhancing forest carbon stocks (REDD+). The US Agency for International Development (USAID) launched the Forest Carbon, Markets and Communities (FCMC) Program to provide its missions, partner governments, local and international stakeholders with assistance in developing and implementing REDD+ initiatives.

Pilot projects at the local, national, and international scale are being implemented in dozens of countries by non-governmental organizations, donors and private investors. USAID, through funding under the sustainable landscapes pillar of its global climate change program, is leading the implementation of REDD+ activities that contribute to sustainable livelihoods, protect biodiversity and respect the rights of indigenous peoples, women, the poor and vulnerable populations.

FCMC's work supports US Government contributions to international REDD+ architecture and includes analysis, evaluation, tools and guidance to support program design and implementation; training materials; and meeting and workshop development and facilitation. The technical competencies provided by FCMC provide an integrated approach to address social and environmental soundness; finance and carbon markets; measurement, reporting and verification; and low emissions development strategies using coordinated, cross-cutting approaches.



Many critical REDD+ interventions occur at the forest/agricultural land interface

- **Social and Environmental Soundness (SES):** FCMC assesses best practices and develops guidelines, training and activities that support work on social and environmental safeguards, standards, and safeguard information systems, social assessments, and lessons learned from community forestry for REDD+. FCMC is helping develop a national REDD+ safeguards system in Colombia and a nested REDD+ safeguards system in Peru. Successful REDD+ implementation encompasses land and carbon tenure, gender, human rights, democracy, governance, and benefit sharing issues, while equitably engaging stakeholders.
- **Finance and Carbon Markets (FCM):** FCMC supports the development of public and private finance mechanisms for REDD+ with a focus on markets, including carbon markets and other market mechanisms. This includes supporting the development of the national and international architecture for REDD+ finance, countries' financial readiness for REDD+, and other financial products that support finance for REDD+ activities. Examples include readiness support to Colombia, supporting USAID's Development Credit Authority develop a loan guarantee for REDD+ projects, and collaboration with the World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility.
- **Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV):** FCMC builds local, national and international capacity to develop MRV systems, including remote sensing of forests and land-cover change, forest and greenhouse gas inventories, and guidance on the synthesis of information into reliable and transparent reporting. FCMC focuses its efforts on different aspects of monitoring needed for MRV systems in national REDD+ contexts and provides specific MRV and greenhouse gas inventory expertise to governments and their partners. FCMC is emphasizing its national capacity building on MRV in Peru and Colombia.
- **Low Emissions Development Strategies (LEDS):** FCMC contributes to the US Government's program on "Enhancing Capacity for Low Emissions Development" (EC-LEDS) by supporting cross-sector planning and decision-making in the land-use sector. This support is focused on LEDS development in Guatemala and a model Climate Change Action Plan in the Huila region of Colombia.
- **Cross-Cutting Approach:** FCMC promotes an integrated approach that requires an understanding of the various approaches undertaken by USAID, national governments and other stakeholders to implement REDD+. Examples include: support to the Alliance for Global Capacity Building on REDD+ (AGRC) on the development of the Competencies Framework for REDD+; an in-depth review of the relationship between REDD+, deforestation, and forest degradation and gender to inform REDD+ strategies in Central Africa; and a "regreening" study of tree planting projects in East Africa to assess their contributions to carbon sequestration, livelihoods, and biodiversity conservation.

FCMC is funded through USAID's Bureau for Economic Growth, Education, and Environment (E3). In-country activities undertaken by FCMC are vetted for approval with the relevant mission and/or bureau. FCMC is committed to ensuring coordination of REDD+ initiatives with host country programs, the international donor community, and non-governmental organizations, as well as USAID-funded activities.

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FCMC is implemented by Prime Contractor Tetra Tech, along with core partners, including Conservation International, Terra Global Capital, Greenhouse Gas Management Institute, and World Resources Institute