

USAID PROGRAM BRIEF

FOREST CARBON, MARKETS AND COMMUNITIES

LOW EMISSION DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES (LEDS)

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.

The pathway to a “green economy” will require the integration of Low Emissions Development Strategy (LEDS) options that take an economy-wide approach to economic growth, including transport, energy efficiency, renewable energy and land use. FCMC activities contribute 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. FCMC’s LEDS investments are focused on two countries in Latin America, Colombia and Guatemala, which provide examples of pursuing LEDS on the national (Guatemala) and sub-national (Colombia) levels. FCMC assistance includes sectoral analyses, land use assessment, action plan development, awareness raising and other strategic approaches. These efforts help bridge REDD+ and LEDS investments so that climate change mitigation and adaptation are integrated into development trajectories that foster economic growth and poverty reduction.



FCMC ensures that land-use sectors integrate concepts of mitigation and adaptation in national LEDS planning

RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS AND ONGOING ACTIVITIES

In Colombia, the main LEDS activity is working with the government in the Department of Huila to develop a Climate Change Action Plan and includes:

- Working with local partner E3 to develop and coordinate technical workshops, capacity-building activities and the inputs of various partners to inform the Action Plan
- A climate change vulnerability assessment that will define measureable climate change indicators, an assessment of GHG emissions across major sectors, and an analysis of policies that could reduce these emissions
- An estimation of the changes in forest cover between 2005-2010

In Guatemala, FCMC is working with The Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources and the Presidential Secretariat for Planning and Programming to develop a LEDS program. Activities include:

- Completion of a comprehensive report with detailed sectoral analyses on existing and required elements for LEDS development in Guatemala that will achieve emission reductions while maintaining economic growth
- The aforementioned report has led to a second phase to design a series of capacity building workshops, focusing on agriculture, forestry and other land uses to strengthen a government platform for developing GHG inventories, which can be adopted by relevant ministries and institutions over the long term.

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