

USAID PROGRAM BRIEF

FOREST CARBON, MARKETS AND COMMUNITIES

MEASUREMENT, REPORTING AND VERIFICATION (MRV)

OVERVIEW

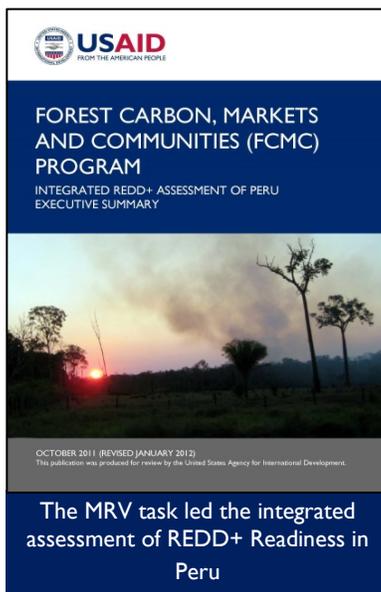
Forest conservation and sustainable forest management are recognized as strategically important for mitigating and adapting to climate change. The global community is developing approaches for reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation and enhancing forest carbon stocks (REDD+). The US Agency 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.

A functional REDD+ mechanism requires national institutions capable of managing Measurement, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) systems. These apply a range of technologies, including remote sensing, forest inventories, and soil surveys, and also require the capacity to synthesize information into reliable and transparent reporting. Many developing countries with dynamic forest frontiers could benefit from REDD+ activities, but do not yet have the capacity to participate effectively in emerging international REDD+ markets, in part because of a lack of a MRV system.

An effective national or sub-national MRV system should engage national and local governments, as well as communities, academia, and other stakeholders involved in MRV of REDD+ projects. Transparency is necessary to warrant the confidence of stakeholder groups, the international community and investors that underpin a “pay-for-performance” system. FCMC focuses its efforts on: building capacity in the various monitoring components needed for MRV systems in a national REDD+ context; providing offices and missions with specific MRV and greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory expertise; and assisting in the design and development of national and sub-national systems and the integration of forest carbon MRV into national GHG inventories.



Building community capacity for forest carbon monitoring is a FCMC goal



RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS & ONGOING ACTIVITIES

- Completion of the FCMC MRV Manual that provides detailed guidance to national governments on technical and organizational needs for developing a MRV system, and a related summary for policymakers
- MRV technical capacity workshop series hosted by SilvaCarbon and FCMC, in coordination with South and Central American partners
- Capacity building and development of a satellite-based forest-monitoring system in Peru
- Capacity building and support for establishing emissions reference level scenarios, and for linking monitoring systems to local governments and communities in Colombia
- Spanish translation of online training materials from the Greenhouse Gas Management Institute

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