PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH IN **MEXICO**

Rapid urban growth puts stress on a city's resources and infrastructure, and is a major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions.

PHOTO FROM ISTOCK 2622438

Mexico is the second largest economy in Latin America, with rapid growth occurring in the industrial and services sectors.[1] A forward-thinking country on climate change, the nation recognizes that the threat of higher temperatures, changes in precipitation patterns, and more frequent weather-related disasters could pose a substantial risk to its expanding economy.

QUICK FACT: "Energy consumption currently dominates Mexico's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, accounting for 67 percent of GHG emissions in 2010; followed by land use, forestry, and agriculture (19 percent)."[2]

To mitigate climate change, the Mexican government has set forth numerous policies and plans that support its low emission development strategy (LEDS), including the General Law on Climate Change and the Basis for a Low Emission Development Strategy in Mexico road map. Through the Enhancing Capacity for Low Emission Development Strategies (EC-LEDS) partnership, Mexico and the United States are working together to advance the common objectives of encouraging economic growth while reducing emissions over the long term.

EC-LEDS experts and Mexican government institutions, such as the Inter-ministerial Commission on Climate Change—the coordinating body for formulating and coordinating climate change policy in Mexico—are collaborating to:

- Advance Mexico's interagency cooperation around LEDS development and implementation
- Strengthen Mexico's in-country capacity for macroeconomic modeling
- Address technical and financial barriers to meeting Mexico's renewable energy goals
- Support widespread integration of climate change mitigation considerations into Mexican agricultural and forestry programs.

[1] "Mexico." Washington, D.C.: The World Bank Group, 2013. http://www.worldbank.org/en/country/mexico.
[2] Mexico: Fifth National Communication to the UNFCCC, 2012. http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/natc/mexnc5s.pdf.

THE **EC-LEDS** PROGRAM

Low emission development strategies (LEDS) are development plans that promote sustainable social and economic development while reducing greenhouse gas emissions over the medium to long term.

Enhancing Capacity for Low Emission Development Strategies (EC-LEDS) is a flagship U.S. government-led effort that assists countries in developing and implementing LEDS. The program enhances partner country efforts by (1) providing targeted technical assistance and (2) building a shared global knowledge base on LEDS.

EC-LEDS country partners include Albania, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Gabon, Georgia, Guatemala, Indonesia, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Macedonia, Malawi, Mexico, Moldova, Peru, the Philippines, Serbia, South Africa, Thailand, Ukraine, Vietnam, and Zambia.

Land-use, forestry, and agriculture practices contribute to Mexico's GHG emissions profile, prompting the country to focus on implementing mitigation actions in these areas.

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SUPPORTING MEXICO'S LEDS PRIORITIES

In Mexico, EC-LEDS is focusing on specific technical areas where the country has indicated the program can add the most value. Two examples of working areas within the EC-LEDS-Mexico partnership are deploying clean energy and decreasing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in land-use sectors such as forestry and agriculture.

DEPLOYING CLEAN ENERGY

Addressing the financial and technical barriers to clean energy deployment is a priority for the Mexican government. EC-LEDS is helping the country overcome those barriers by creating a road map to meeting renewable energy targets and supporting private investment in the renewable energy sector.

Joint activities include:

- Providing expert guidance and support for grid integration considerations that will help Mexico reach its ambitious goal of 35 percent renewable electricity by 2024
- Identifying sustainable opportunities for bioenergy in Mexico's low emission future
- Building expertise in the financial sector on solar energy technology and risk analysis to encourage private investment.

DECREASING GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS FROM LAND USE

With GHG emissions from the agriculture, land-use, and forestry sectors accounting for 19 percent of Mexico's total emissions, including these sectors in LEDS planning and implementation is key to lowering Mexico's future GHG emissions trajectory.

EC-LEDS activities include:

- Collaborating with analysts to update and modify current abatement cost models, and develop Mexico-specific data on abatement options in the land-use sector
- Designing and establishing a carbon accounting system and carbon inventories for the forestry sector
- Expanding sustainable agriculture management practices through trainings on nutrient management, and conservation practices, tools, and policies that will promote a low emission, climate-resilient agriculture sector.

EC-LEDS ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN **MEXICO**

Several notable accomplishments have been achieved through the EC-LEDS program:

Updated Mexico's GHG baseline. Technical experts from both countries cooperated to update Mexico's GHG baseline. As a result, the government of Mexico has been able to establish robust emissions reduction targets for the top emitting sectors in Mexico: energy, land use, and transportation.

Started building a macroeconomic modeling tool. EC-LEDS supported an expert macroeconomic modeler in Mexico's National Institute of Ecology and Climate Change to develop a macroeconomic model for the agency. Having the tool in place will assist with implementing the General Law on Climate Change, and will allow for the evaluation and prioritization of LEDS actions based on economic impacts, emission reductions, and benefits.

Provided training and brought together stakeholders in the agriculture sector. More than 100 attendees participated in a series of three workshops on measurement and implementation of conservation agriculture and nutrient management practices. Such training and consensus building will reduce GHG emissions in the agriculture sector while also benefiting the food system.

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