U.S. GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS LOW EMISSION ECONOMIC GROWTH

"The EC-LEDS program takes an economy-wide approach and recognizes the importance of reducing emissions and climate vulnerabilities. Low emission development is really about sustainable economic growth."
– Kit Batten, USAID Global Climate Change Coordinator

EC-LEDS promotes development and reduces greenhouse gas emissions in high-emitting sectors such as energy. PHOTO FROM ISTOCK 20025947

Countries around the world face the challenge of maintaining long-term sustainable economic growth and development under the threat of climate change. By identifying and pursuing a sustainable development pathway now, they are better positioned to reach their economic growth goals while addressing climate change impacts and lowering greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

Low emission development strategies—development plans that promote sustainable social and economic development while reducing long-term GHG emissions—provide a pathway to preparing for a global low emission future. Partner country governments are working with the U.S. government through the Enhancing Capacity for Low Emission Development Strategies (EC-LEDS) program to further their national development objectives.

EC-LEDS SUPPORTS PARTNER COUNTRIES

The United States is currently collaborating with more than 20 partner countries to support the design and implementation of low emission development programs, plans, and policies by:

Providing targeted technical assistance. Support is targeted to a country's specific circumstances and priorities. Examples include:

- Developing a robust and transparent national GHG inventory, a critical component to identifying low emission actions and policies
- Cultivating policies that lower GHG emissions while encouraging economic growth in sectors such as energy, transport, agriculture, and forestry
- Encouraging investment and financing in low emission technologies and sectors.

Building and sharing knowledge. The program is developing a shared global knowledge base for low emission planning and implementation. Through this program, the United States supports:

- The LEDS Global Partnership, which brings together more than 110 countries, institutions, and civil society organizations from around the world to share experiences and successes in low emission growth
- Knowledge exchanges that encourage stakeholders from developing countries to visit the United States to learn more about low emission development
- Toolkits that compile the resources and tools necessary to address specific technical issues relevant to multiple partner countries.

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.

EC-LEDS DELIVERS RESULTS

The program builds upon the specific climate change strategies and national development priorities of each partner country, undertaking a wide range of efforts. Highlights include:

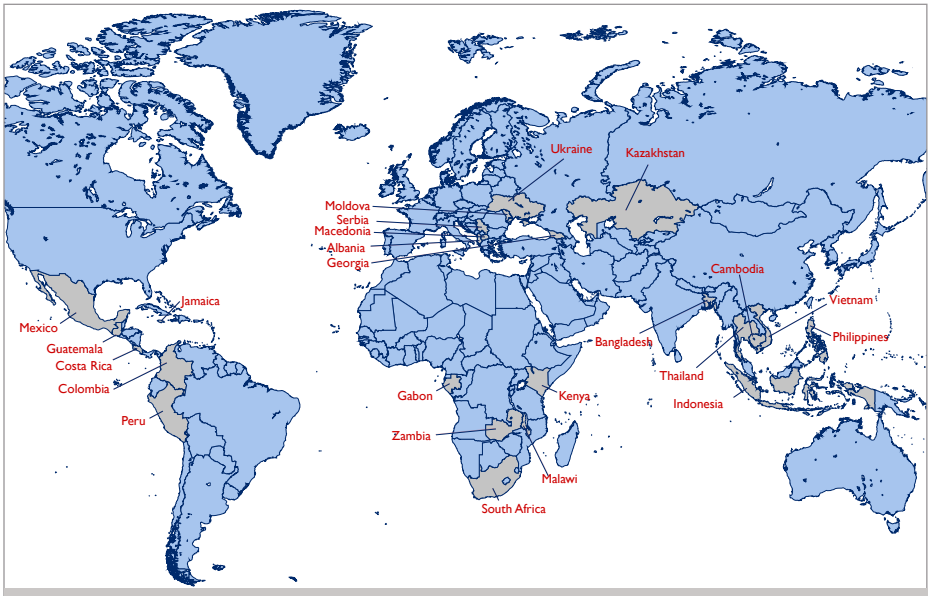
BANGLADESH. EC-LEDS assistance supports the deployment of wind power, a priority for Bangladesh as outlined in its Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan. The program is working with Bangladesh to install wind measurement towers to collect the necessary data needed to attract investors for the development of a large-scale wind project.

COLOMBIA. To build inter-ministerial support for climate change planning, EC-LEDS is sponsoring nine specialists in key economic development ministries, including energy, transport, and agriculture. The program is also helping build expertise among the ministries through technical trainings that support the design and implementation of low emission development strategies.

MEXICO. Through EC-LEDS assistance, Mexico has updated its GHG emission baseline, and is now developing a macroeconomic model to better understand the impacts of various low emission development policies. The program is also supporting the development of a road map for integrating renewable energy into Mexico's electricity grid, and encouraging best practices in fertilizer use via U.S. Department of Agriculture-led workshops and trainings.

PHILIPPINES. The EC-LEDS program is working with the Philippines to improve the quality of its GHG inventory. The Philippines is using this accurate GHG inventory to form achievable mitigation plans in key economic sectors, including energy, transport, and land use.

GABON. With Gabon's valuable natural and economic resources facing growing threats from encroachment, the EC-LEDS program is focusing on helping Gabon integrate climate considerations into the forestry and national parks sectors. A pilot program assessing the carbon inventory in national parks has been launched, and in-country teams have been trained to collect forest and soil data, establish forest plots, and analyze samples. This field work is a critical component to determining carbon baselines of Gabon's forests.



EC-LEDS assists over 20 partner countries in developing low emission development strategies that grow the economy and decrease GHG emissions.

WHAT CONSTITUTES A ROBUST LEDS?

Effective low emission development strategies consider key economic sectors in a country and develop a framework for prioritizing actionable plans to stimulate economic growth with the greatest possible GHG emissions reductions. A LEDS should be:

- Country led and country owned
- Inclusive of key economic sectors
- Forward looking and long term
- Analytically sound, based on real data and information
- Actionable, including implementation and finance plans
- Integrated into national planning processes
- Transformative, promoting long-term emissions reductions even as a country experiences economic growth and development.

FOR QUESTIONS ABOUT EC-LEDS

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