December 2010

U.S. REDD+ Programs

Addressing Climate Change by Conserving and Restoring the World's Forests

Front cover photo by: Jose Cocozzo

Message from the U.S. Secretary of State

DECEMBER 2010

The United States is committed to working with partners around the globe to meet the climate change challenge, and to achieve this goal we simply must protect and restore the world's forests. In my travels as Secretary of State, I have gained a deep appreciation of how central of a role our forest practices can play in protecting our climate. Deforestation is responsible for up to 17% of global greenhouse gas emissions, yet when conserved, restored, and managed sustainably, forests provide one of the best ways to remove and store carbon from the atmosphere. Moreover, healthy forests are essential to the livelihoods and welfare of millions of people in both developed and developing countries, they are home to some of the planet's most significant biodiversity, and they help to maintain healthy ecosystems.

At the Copenhagen climate summit in December 2009, the Obama Administration made a historic announcement to dedicate $1 billion to help countries to slow, halt, and eventually reverse deforestation. This report outlines some of the important steps we are taking to save our forests and combat climate change, and I look forward to working with partners around the world to build on these efforts to foster a sustainable future.

Hillary Rodham Clinton

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Figure 1 Environmental stewardship in Brazil protects forest areas, helping to maintain carbon sinks.

Photo by: USAID

Introduction

As an important part of President Obama's new Global Development Policy and the United States' commitment to "fast start" financing in the Copenhagen Accord, we are dedicating $1 billion over the FY2010-2012 timeframe to REDD+ plus activities that help countries to slow, halt, and eventually reverse deforestation.[1]

U.S. REDD+ fast start financing focuses on reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and enhancing sequestration by forests. Other landscapes with high mitigation potential, such as peatlands and wetlands, may also be addressed.

REDD+ activities offer cost-effective opportunities to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions while providing other sustainable development benefits, such as improved local livelihoods, economic growth, and enhanced ecosystem services. The United States recognizes, as does the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, that all nations should promote sustainable development and the realities of climate change require a sustainable, low emissions development path. This path offers opportunities for countries to improve the living standards of their people by ensuring sound economic growth while protecting the environment.

As part of the Global Climate Change Initiative (GCCI) under the Administration's Global Development Policy, the United States seeks to mobilize financing from all sources, including the private sector, to leverage the respective strengths of multilateral and bilateral assistance mechanisms. We will work to ensure that our climate finance is efficient, effective, and innovative, based on country-owned plans, and focused on achieving measurable results. We will focus our bilateral efforts on those countries and regions where we have a comparative advantage, and will coordinate closely with other donors.

Figure 2 A park guard works with a local farmer to sustainably manage forests in Nicaragua.

Photo by: USAID

The United States is taking a multi-pronged approach to the problem. A variety of U.S. agencies are working to help countries get "ready" for REDD+ actions, including USAID as well as our technical agencies which are collaborating with developing countries to share the best of U.S. science, technology, and expertise through global, regional, and bilateral initiatives.

[1] REDD + includes reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries.

United States Fast Start Financing for REDD+:

EXCERPTS FROM THE U.S. GOVERNMENT STRATEGY ON REDD+

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

The strategy lays out the U.S. long-term objectives for REDD+ investments. By working together with the international community, the United States expects to make significant progress through its contribution during this initial three year period.

Objective 1: REDD+ Architecture: Creating and supporting an efficient, effective, and coordinated international system to help countries deliver REDD+ outcomes.

Focus of architecture investments: The United States will support the creation of a framework that drives policies and programs with evidence of impact by generating, evaluating, and analyzing outcomes and providing coordinated, transparent, and effective financing and technical support to developing countries.

The United States will target investments to support a coherent global approach to REDD+. This REDD+ "architecture" includes well-functioning multilateral funds, enhanced donor coordination, application of effective methodologies and technologies, shared best practices, and cost-efficient access to data. The architecture should also ensure transparency of mitigation actions and forest carbon data, effective application of safeguards, and provision and effective use of financing. The United States will support the following types of activities under this objective:

- Participation in selected multilateral REDD+ funds, and other international REDD+ related processes, to advance the coherence and coordination of REDD+ efforts, while seeking to ensure that multilateral efforts are consistent with U.S. policies and approaches.
- Assessment of modalities for measuring REDD+ GHG mitigation, dissemination of best practices, sharing of data, and access to tools for decision making, including through applied research, training, publications, and regional and global platforms.
- Regional and global approaches to capacity building for national GHG land use inventories, consistent with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) methodologies and guidance.
- Strategic coordination with other donors and multilateral efforts, aimed at forging a deliberate "division of labor," harmonizing our approaches, increasing efficiencies and ensuring that our efforts are transparent, focused squarely on sustainable outcomes, and informed by data and evidence.
- Responding to the ongoing UNFCCC negotiations on environmental and social safeguards and on approaches to making REDD+ emissions reductions and removals measurable, reportable, and verifiable (MRV), by helping to implement those global framework decisions as they are agreed.

Objective 2: REDD+ Readiness: Helping countries become ready to participate in pay-for-performance programs and take complementary domestic actions. Investments will help countries become ready at the national level to undertake actions at a scale that can significantly reduce emissions or increase sequestration, enable access to pay-for-performance financing, including future carbon markets, and meet ambitious domestic mitigation commitments.

Sustained progress requires that developing countries build the capacity to design, manage and implement their own REDD+ plans and incorporate low emissions strategies into their broader economic growth and development plans. This objective therefore supports country readiness for both domestic actions and pay-for-performance opportunities, in the context of ambitious national REDD+ plans. Actions under this REDD+ readiness objective will help build the capacity of our partners in the developing world and support the creation and implementation of national policies for REDD+. This includes creating incentives for local forest mitigation results and facilitating access to a wide range of public and

private-sector financing, from both domestic and international sources. U.S. investments will include the following types of activities:

- Support for host countries' development of REDD+ strategies, in particular those being developed as part of an economy-wide low emissions development strategy (LEDS).
- Support for REDD+ readiness activities at the local government level. This includes assistance with sub-national REDD+ strategies, benefit sharing and safeguard systems, emissions inventories, and land use planning and monitoring.
- Support for development of robust national greenhouse gas inventories.
- Support for the development of national forest carbon inventories, and the piloting of reference scenarios, within the framework of national greenhouse gas inventories.
- Promotion of national standards and systems for effective environmental and social safeguards for REDD+ activities.
- Provision of technical assistance on national legal, regulatory, and financial structures necessary for enabling private sector finance for low emissions development and participation in any future carbon market; for example, to manage benefit-sharing from results-based payments.

Implementation of readiness elements within a country's national REDD+ strategy, if a strategy exists. This might include strengthening the aspects of national forest governance, national technical management capacity, and national land and tree tenure policies that are directly necessary to achieve emissions reductions and sequestration at scale.

Support to help countries design and carry-out national level policy reforms that are part of low emissions development strategies and change economic incentives toward reduced net emissions. Examples include policies for payments for ecosystem services, changes to subsidies and tariffs to facilitate decreased net emissions from land use, national land use and land planning especially related to reducing agricultural pressures on forests, and forest management reforms, including improved forest governance.

Objective 3: REDD+ Demonstration: Achieving cost-effective and sustainable net emissions reductions. Investments will support programs that achieve, or that demonstrate scalable approaches to achieving significant, cost-effective net emissions reductions.

Investments under this objective seek to achieve, or identify and demonstrate best practices for achieving, decreases in net forest emissions that are cost-effective and at significant geographic scale. The focus will be on sub-national programs designed to move a country toward national actions and results, including demonstrating how local activities can feed into national systems. Demonstration activities should have explicit linkages with ongoing national REDD+ readiness efforts, and may also include local level REDD+ readiness activities that are needed to achieve results. Financed activities may include:

- Support for large-scale pilot activities that promote sustainable economic growth, transparently monitor and report credible emissions reductions or sequestration, and catalyze private-sector investment. These activities should lead to real, sustainable, and cost-effective emission reductions, have the ability to be scaled up, and contribute to sub-national or national REDD+ strategies.
- Support for emissions reduction demonstrations at smaller scales to test approaches that are designed to be scalable to achieve significant emissions reductions, thereby building political will for larger programs or reforms.
- Pay-for-performance pilot projects and funds, for example ex-post payments for reduction of emissions

Support for REDD+ efforts through U.S. contributions to multilateral funds

Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF): The United States is contributing to both the Readiness and Carbon Funds of the FCPF. The creation of REDD+ strategies under the Readiness Fund is an essential first step for countries wanting to take REDD+ action. Meanwhile, the Carbon Fund will be key to piloting results-based REDD+ systems. The United States is committed to working with others to test out approaches and methods for a future carbon market.

Forest Investment Program (FIP): The United States is a contributor to the FIP, a program under the Climate Investment Funds. The FIP will provide financing for public and private investments that build on national REDD+ strategies, such as those developed under the FCPF.

Global Environment Facility (GEF): As part of the 5th GEF replenishment package, a major program to support Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) and REDD+ was approved. The program will provide incentives to develop SFM and REDD+ projects and programs to reduce pressures on forests and generate sustainable flows of forest ecosystem services, as well as to strengthen the enabling environment to reduce GHG emissions from deforestation and forest degradation.

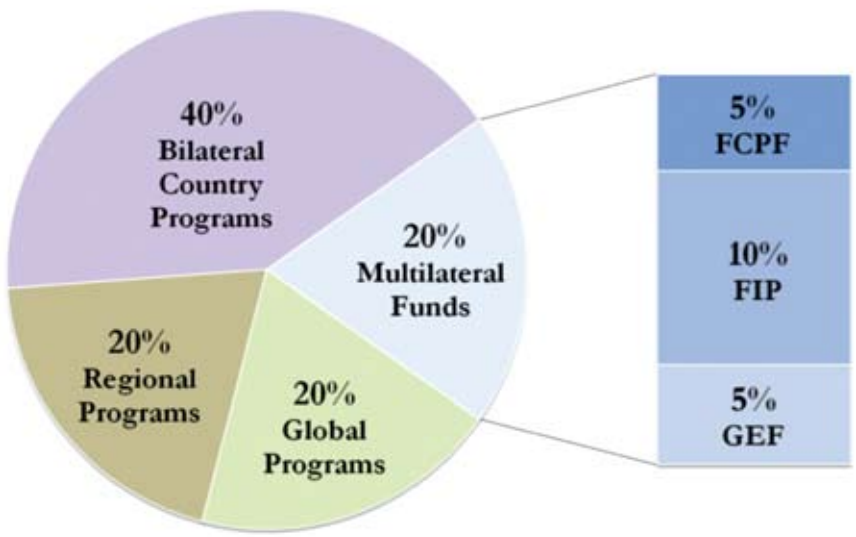

Figure 3 Approximate allocation of 2010 funds, based on information available as of November 2010. Funding for bilateral country programs in 2010 may increase as additional information becomes available.

Supporting REDD+ strategy development

ENHANCING CAPACITY FOR LOW EMISSION DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

Given the large range of activities that needs to be completed in order to achieve REDD+ results, an analytically-based strategy is very important to target efforts and resources. To help countries with strategic planning, the U.S. government is launching a new multi-agency effort – Enhancing Capacity for Low Emission Development Strategies. This program will support partner countries' efforts to develop long-term strategic approaches to reducing greenhouse gas emissions across the entire economy while accelerating sustainable economic growth. REDD+ strategies can fit within, and contribute to, a broader low emission development strategy (LEDS). At the same time, the LEDS approach can strengthen REDD+ strategies by bringing a macro-economic, cross-sectoral development lens to the drivers of land use change and forest emissions and sequestration. The linkage between LEDS and REDD+ strategies will help ensure that REDD+ strategies seek a truly fundamental shift in the development path of the forest sector toward a low emissions future.

Partnering with Countries: The U.S. government will provide strategic and specialized assistance and expertise to support development of new LEDS in countries that do not have one, or to increase the transparency, comprehensiveness, and technical soundness of existing strategies. An integral part of the process is engagement with the private sector, civil society, other donors, and non-governmental organizations to ensure that strategies and programs are market-relevant, are widely understood, and provide broad societal benefits. Development of LEDS is a country-driven process with U.S.-supported analysis and capacity-building activities tailored to the specific technical, analytical, and policy needs identified by partner countries. Examples of supported activities include:

- Identifying investment barriers in key sectors, such as energy, land-use, agriculture, forestry, and transportation and sharing best practices and other potential solutions
- Helping to identify and analyze policies that facilitate private capital and improve access to additional sources of private and public financing for LEDS implementation
- Providing advice on technology and policy deployment pathways and assistance with actionable policy and technology projects.

Building a Shared Knowledge Base: Countries around the world have developed or are currently developing policy and technology frameworks that strengthen economies and put them on low-emission pathways. The multi-agency effort to enhance capacity for low emission development strategies will facilitate sharing of the unique experiences of each country and build a shared knowledge base of the best practices, methodologies, and tools of stakeholders and partners from around the world.

Additional information on LEDS, including an extensive catalogue of tools and resources, can be found at: http://OpenEI.org/LEDS.

Social soundness and sustainability of REDD+ programs

SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SOUNDNESS

Most governments, NGOs, and bilateral and multilateral donors involved in developing REDD+ have given significant thought to the risks involved in changing incentives for new modes of land and forest use. Although a number of social and environmental safeguard guidelines and processes are being proposed or implemented as countries go through the stages of REDD+ readiness, further progress is needed on developing and applying practical methodologies.

A social and environmental soundness (SES) approach incorporates safeguards against harming people, species and ecosystems (e.g., general guidelines, cautions, prohibitions, redress mechanisms). In addition, it provides a suite of tools and best practices for strategy design and implementation that not only helps implementers to avoid harm but also to proactively build stewardship. USAID is beginning a new program to contribute to greater social and environmental soundness in REDD+ planning and implementation and to provide leadership on this theme among REDD+ donors.

The program will seek to create greater shared understanding and technical capacity at the international level, including among USAID staff and partners, to implement robust methodologies that increase the social and environmental soundness of REDD+ activities. The methodologies should provide practical and effective ways to meet the conditions and requirements of international processes and emerging standards around REDD+ safeguards.

In addition, we will partner with selected countries to demonstrate how to incorporate safeguards into their LEDS and REDD+ strategies and actions. We will do this through training on the use of a SES approach, convening meetings with stakeholders, completing country specific research and data collection, and providing technical assistance to key agencies. These actions should result in improved quality and depth of engagement with indigenous and community organizations to facilitate their participation in REDD+ strategy development and implementation in their countries.

RIGHTS AND BENEFIT SHARING

Developing a more comprehensive understanding of the emerging field of rights related to REDD+, including carbon, and supporting policies and implementation protocols, represents one aspect of the social and environmental soundness approach that will receive focused attention. For REDD+ to be successful it is critical that the rights and responsibilities between national governments and local communities be clarified. In addition, financial and technical resources associated with carbon mitigation must be leveraged to modify, clarify and strengthen tenure regimes. USAID will support research and analysis to examine how rights related to REDD+ can best be formalized to reduce the potential for land grabbing and maximize the opportunities for benefit sharing. It will identify best practices and principles for related legislation and develop and use tools and training for development professionals and host country decision makers. Based on this work, and building on long-standing forest governance programs, USAID will proactively integrate rights and benefit sharing assistance into its world-wide REDD+ programs.

Enhancing Forest Carbon Monitoring and Greenhouse Gas Inventories

U.S. EPA: BUILDING CAPACITY FOR FOREST AND LAND USE NATIONAL GREENHOUSE GAS INVENTORIES

Developing an accurate and complete greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory is an important first step that countries can take to begin identifying opportunities for managing their GHG emissions. Using methodologies developed by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), and with a focus on agriculture, land use, land use change, and forestry (AFOLU), the U.S. EPA and USAID are helping countries build a foundation on which they can begin assessing emissions and removals from this sector in a demonstrable, transparent, verifiable, and consistent way.

The approach and tools applied in this capacity-building work enhance a country's ability to estimate reduced emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and enhanced sequestration associated with REDD+ activities. With a completed AFOLU GHG inventory, developing countries can also begin to determine historical emissions levels—an essential basis for these countries to participate in future REDD+ activities. EPA's work is implemented with assistance from the UNFCCC Secretariat, which is supported by U.S. government funds.

Through past and current projects in Central America and Southeast Asia, EPA and USAID have developed a strong capacity building framework. This framework has a dual strategy based on 1) improving the institutional capacity of a country to support a sustainable inventory system, and 2) providing technical assistance on implementing activity data collection and methods approved by the IPCC. EPA is also collaborating with several international partners to support a similar capacity building project in eastern and southern Africa.

EPA and USAID have developed several tools that constitute the foundation of this work. These tools are now being adopted by other organizations seeking to launch similar GHG inventory capacity building projects in developing countries, including:

1. National GHG System Templates Workbook: This workbook provides pre-defined "templates", with examples, that a country can complete and through this process develop a sustainable inventory management system. This enables countries to document essential information in a concise and standardized format, helping countries within regions to compare and contrast results. The template accommodates varying levels of national capacity, promotes transparency, and serves as an instruction manual for future inventory teams.

2. Agriculture and Land Use (ALU) National Greenhouse Gas Inventory Software Tool: The ALU tool, developed in collaboration with Colorado State University and the U.S. Forest Service, enables countries to estimate emissions and removals from all AFOLU source/sink categories as defined by IPCC. The ALU tool allows the user to import GIS spatial data and also produce spatially explicit estimates of biomass carbon stock changes in forests.

More information on this program and the tools can be found at:
http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/emissions/ghginventorycapacitybuilding/

SERVIR: REGIONAL MONITORING AND VISUALIZATION SYSTEM

Geographic information and analysis is at the heart of monitoring forest and terrestrial carbon for REDD+. It is also essential to addressing many other development challenges. SERVIR is a program designed to provide geographic information services in partnership with developing country institutions. The SERVIR earth observation, monitoring, and visualization system integrates satellite and other geospatial data for improved scientific knowledge and decision-making by managers, researchers, students, and the general public.

Currently, there are three operational SERVIR nodes, one for Mesoamerica, based in Panama, another for eastern Africa, based in Kenya. A third node, SERVIR-Himalaya, was recently launched in October 2010. SERVIR nodes house a team of local specialists with expertise in remote sensing, geographic information systems (GIS) mapping, and database management.

USAID and NASA provide strategic direction, funding, and technical expertise for SERVIR with support from other U.S. government agencies, international NGO's, universities, the private sector, and the World Bank.

SERVIR provides host governments with the capability to monitor weather, forest fires, and ecological changes, as well as respond to severe events such as red tides, landslides, and flooding. The SERVIR program also works to build capacity of host government officials and local experts in the use of Earth observation systems and mapping, and to build partnerships to leverage impacts. SERVIR is one of the objectives of the intergovernmental Group on Earth Observations, which works to make data publicly available for societal benefit.

The U.S. will use the SERVIR program to provide technical assistance to developing countries on forest carbon monitoring and management. Assistance will include technical training in association with SERVIR nodes, provision of datasets and analytical tools through the SERVIR system, and support for regional cooperation among governments on forest monitoring initiatives.

Figure 4 Demonstrating the use of satellite imagery to illustrate land use changes as part of a farmer-managed natural land cover regeneration project. SERVIR provides a platform for information and tools such as these.

Photo by: Gray Tappan

SILVACARBON: U.S. SCIENCE, INNOVATION, AND TECHNICAL EXPERTISE TO ASSIST DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO MONITOR AND MANAGE FOREST AND TERRESTRIAL CARBON

Recent years have seen enhanced use of technologies and science to help countries monitor their forest carbon. Advances in satellite data availability and quality, along with improved in situ measurements, enhanced modeling capabilities, and increased knowledge through research, have been impressive. Ongoing research and international collaboration are particularly critical for comparing methodologies and identifying best practices and approaches relevant to a variety of country circumstances.

With this in mind, United States federal agencies have joined together to create the SilvaCarbon program to build capacity worldwide for monitoring and managing forest and terrestrial carbon. SilvaCarbon will draw on the expertise of the U.S. scientific and technical community including experts from government, academia, non-governmental organizations, and industry. Working in partnership with developing countries, SilvaCarbon will identify, test, and disseminate best practices and cost-effective, accurate technologies for tracking and managing forest and terrestrial carbon.

SilvaCarbon is a U.S. contribution to the intergovernmental Group on Earth Observations (GEO) Forest Carbon Tracking task, a component of the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS). SilvaCarbon will address a broad range of technical areas including: sampling protocols and design; collection and analysis of in situ data, including involvement of local communities and stakeholders; integration of remote sensed and in situ data; classification and mapping; forest cover, carbon stock and flow estimation; data capture, processing, archiving, and distribution; design of monitoring systems for multiple uses; and land use analysis and planning.

SilvaCarbon will be implemented through a whole-of-government approach. U.S. Federal agencies currently involved include: U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the U.S. Forest Service within the Department of Agriculture (USFS), the U.S. Geological Survey of the Department of Interior (USGS), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the U.S. Department of State, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce (NOAA), and the Smithsonian Institution.

SilvaCarbon will support creation of an open community of experts that includes individuals from government, U.S. universities, non-profit and for-profit organizations. SilvaCarbon will support collaborative consensus building and sharing among these experts to generate best practices and critical analyses of methodologies and approaches. We will do this in the spirit of making the full expertise of the United States available to the international community.

SilvaCarbon will be implemented in close cooperation with international organizations and other governments that are also engaged in the GEO Forest Carbon Task, or in related forest and terrestrial carbon activities.

Readying countries for REDD+ and Demonstrating Results

LATIN AMERICA PROGRAMS

The United States is working to develop REDD+ programs in several countries in Latin America. The following are some illustrative examples:

Figure 5 Indigenous youth receive fire preparedness training in Capota-Jarina Kayapo Indigenous Reserve in Mato Grosso, Brazil. Combating forest fires plays an important role in reducing emissions from degradation.

Photo by: Eric Stoner

In Brazil, The U.S. Forest Service and USAID are cooperating with scientists and forest managers in Brazil to exchange experience and information that contributes to the Brazilian National Forest Inventory. Current cooperation includes assistance to a Brazilian Forest Service pilot study to demonstrate the potential of an inventory to produce estimates of biomass and carbon stocks nationally. The study will explore options for estimating forest carbon in REDD+ projects. The work is linked to the Brazil and U.S. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Climate Change, which aims to strengthen bilateral cooperation through discussing key climate policy issues.

In Colombia, USAID has developed a demonstration program that pays indigenous and Afro Colombian communities for natural forest conservation. Payments are based on external verification that no wood extraction has occurred in agreed-upon conservation areas. These funds are paid directly to the steering committee of the community councils and they, in turn, invest these resources in food security and sustainable production activities (cacao, rice, cassava and fisheries have been financed with this mechanism) through a revolving fund. The aim is to strengthen the economic stability of these communities and develop different funding sources including revenues from carbon sequestration and payment for environmental services.

Figure 6 Forest conservation projects in South America protect ceiba trees, maintaining carbon stocks.

Photo by: USAID

In Guatemala, USAID is supporting the government in establishing a legal regulatory framework and policies to reduce GHG emissions and enhance carbon sequestration through forest and land management. USAID is supporting this initiative to facilitate REDD+ activities in the Petén and other regions. These activities will complement Guatemala's development of a comprehensive forest-based carbon emissions reduction initiative.

In Guyana, U.S. Forest Service and USAID will support the development and management of a national forestry inventory. The inventory will help the government of Guyana to establish a REDD+ baseline, track changes in forest cover in the country, and generate emissions estimates. To complement this effort, U.S. Forest Service will train Guyana Forestry Commission technical staff in remote sensing, GIS, and database development to build their capacity for implementing REDD+ activities and managing the inventory and MRV system.

USAID will also help strengthen the capacity of indigenous peoples and other forest-dependent communities to participate in Guyana's Low Carbon Development Strategy and REDD+ processes, which are being supported by other donors.

In Mexico, USAID will work with the Government of Mexico to develop and implement a national climate change strategy and national REDD+ strategy. USAID will partner with the U.S. Forest Service and Mexico's National Forest Commission to strengthen the national REDD+ plan, through designing a regional REDD+ readiness plan in the Yucatan, evaluating existing REDD+ readiness pilot projects, and developing a REDD+ baseline in rural areas surrounding the Lacandona jungle. They will also work to develop MRV tools and policies and conduct on-the-ground demonstration projects.

ASIA PROGRAMS

The United States is developing REDD+ programs in several Asian countries and regions. The following are some illustrative examples:

In Indonesia, The U.S. Forest Service together with State and USAID is starting a new program with Indonesian partners that will mobilize U.S. expert cooperation and training to improve peat land emissions data, understanding of carbon dynamics, and mapping and monitoring of carbon-rich peat lands and tropical forests. USAID has also launched SOLUSI, an initiative that includes programs to address the threats of deforestation and climate change and help to conserve the country's tropical forests, wildlife, and ecosystem processes.

Figure 7 Clearing land for crops such as oil palm is a major cause of deforestation in Southeast Asia.

Photo by: USAID

In India, USAID is supporting scientific collaboration in forest carbon inventory and monitoring, and field testing of new carbon accounting methodologies and forest management interventions. These activities will target areas that are at risk of deforestation and degradation and areas that show a potential for carbon sequestration through improved land management practices.

In eastern Himalaya, The U.S. Forest Service is working with government and NGO representatives from India, Nepal, and Bhutan to exchange experience and technologies on forest inventory and monitoring. This information will help these countries to assess the impact of climate change on forested watersheds that provide water for over 1 billion people, as well as monitor forest carbon for possible REDD+ activities.

Figure 8 Preserving forests in Indonesia helps protect biodiversity.

Photo by: Donald Bason

In Cambodia, USAID is helping to strengthen the government of Cambodia's laws, policies, and institutions related to forests and REDD+. These activities will help to improve the Cambodian government's implementation, enforcement, and compliance with environmental laws.

Figure 9 USAID is supporting the implementation of a Payment for Forest Environmental Services mechanism that ultimately affords payments to ethnic K'ho minority farmers in Vietnam for protecting forest instead of cutting down trees to expand agriculture. This compensation comes from the downstream users of the water, who benefit from less sedimentation and regular water flows.

Photo by: Suzana Sornchan

USAID's Regional Development Mission in Asia (RDMA) has made significant strides over the past few years in strengthening sustainable forest management in the region and readying it for REDD+ action. RDMA's Responsible Asia Forestry and Trade (RAFT) program supported implementation of sustainable forest management practices, such as reduced impact logging and protecting high conservation-value areas protection, and forest certification on more than three million hectares of natural forest concessions primarily in Indonesia, Malaysia, and Papua New Guinea. Such activities have the potential to reduce emissions by about three million tons per year.

RDMA's Asia Regional Biodiversity Conservation Program piloted an innovative payments for forest environmental services (PES) program in Lam Dong Province, southern Vietnam. As a result of support from the pilot program, in 2010 a national PES policy was approved by Vietnam's Prime Minister. During the pilot phase, the PES policy generated more than $4 million in payments from two hydropower facilities and a municipal water supply company. These funds were paid out to 18 forest management boards and forestry businesses, as well as to nearly 8,000 households for the protection of more than 200,000 hectares of threatened forest land in critical watersheds. The average payment to households in 2010 was $540 to $615 USD per year – an almost 400 percent increase over previous payments for forest protection.

AFRICA PROGRAMS

The United States will fund a range of activities across Africa to build capacity at the local and national levels to help meet REDD+ goals. Illustrative examples include:

In West Africa, the STEWARD program supports improved conservation and management of the Upper Guinea Forest Ecosystem in Guinea, Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia, and Sierra Leone. The program manages trans-boundary landscapes by providing communities and local governments with incentives to maintain forest systems and reduce forest degradation. STEWARD will also help to build capacity of countries in the region to monitor their forest carbon.

In Uganda, USAID will work with communities in parts of the Albertine Rift and northern Uganda ecosystems to establish and register reforestation projects and support the sound management of natural forests.

In Zambia, USAID will help develop a national strategy to reduce deforestation, including an in-depth understanding of the primary drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and means of addressing them to ensure the success of a national REDD+ program.

Figure 10 Training forest rangers in Gabon builds capacity to measure carbon stocks and manage forests.

Photo by: Michael Gunther, WWF-Canon

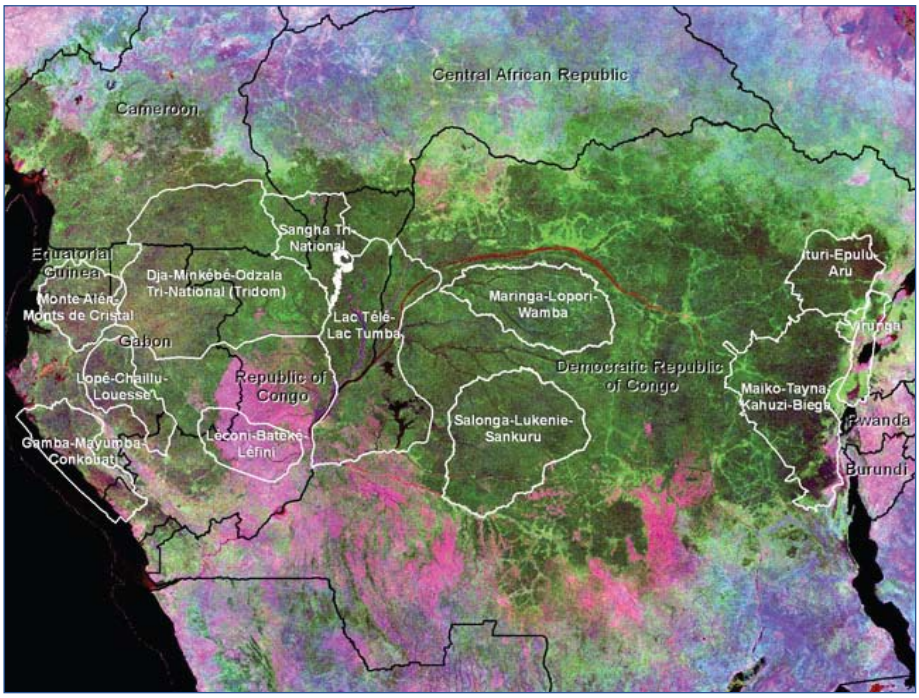

Figure 11 Remotely-sensed image of land cover in the Congo Basin.

Photo by: NASA

With its vast forest reserves, Central Africa is the most important African sub region for storing carbon and mitigating carbon dioxide emissions. USAID's Central African Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE) has made significant progress during more than a decade of work to address deforestation and biodiversity loss in the Congo Basin, an ecosystem that holds massive expanses of closed canopy tropical forests. Unsustainable natural resources extraction, shifting cultivation practices, poverty, and urban expansion at the forest margin threaten this globally significant forest resource. CARPE works in collaboration with government agencies, regional, national and local partners in Cameroon, Central African Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Republic of Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Burundi, and Sao Tome and Principe. Maintaining the region's carbon stock is a key objective of CARPE's work.

To limit deforestation and maintain the region's carbon stock, the CARPE Forest Landscape Management Program is creating and executing ground-level land use management plans coupled with a satellite monitoring system. USAID, in collaboration with NASA and U.S. universities, supports satellite remote sensing to monitor forest cover changes and develop maps that provide a land use snapshot, estimate carbon stocks, and track changes in land cover. USAID and the U.S. Forest Service are also working with six central African countries and the Central African Regional Commission on Forests to conduct forest inventories that will measure carbon stocks and develop policies and procedures to reduce emissions. The program will help countries develop systems that monitor, verify, and report on deforestation, in line with REDD+ strategic objectives.

Conclusion

The United States looks forward to continuing its efforts to develop partnerships with both developing countries and other donors to help slow, halt, and reverse global deforestation. The U.S. is committed to using its new strategic framework for REDD+ fast start financing to target resources towards the most effective approaches. We intend to advance an effective, coordinated international REDD+ architecture through our participation in international fora and through contributions to multilateral funds and global programs. We will support countries' readiness efforts and REDD+ demonstration pilots through bilateral and regional programs so that all countries may pursue sustainable economic growth while contributing solutions to our collective climate change challenges.

THIS BROCHURE WAS A JOINT EFFORT OF THE MANY U.S. AGENCIES WHO ARE PLAYING A ROLE IN OUR REDD+ ASSISTANCE:

- U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)
- U.S. Department of Agriculture, including the U.S. Forest Service (USFS)
- U.S. Department of the Interior, including the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)
- U.S. Department of State
- U.S. Department of the Treasury
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)
- National Aeronautics and Space Agency (NASA)

Figure 12 Protecting forests saves species like this red-eyed tree frog and preserves carbon sinks to mitigate climate change.

Photo by: Jerry Bauer (USFS)

U.S. Department of State • U.S. Agency for International Development • U.S. Department of Treasury
U.S. Department of Agriculture (including U.S. Forest Service) • U.S. Environmental Protection Agency NASA
U.S. Department of the Interior (including U.S. Geological Survey)