



FACT SHEET

USAID/COLOMBIA-AT-A-GLANCE

October 2013

BUDGET

*\$ in thousands for all items
Items that are not final are shown in
Italic*

	FY 2009 Actual Total	FY 2010 653(a) Final	FY 2011 653(a) Final	FY 2012 653(a) Final	FY 2013 653 (a)
Colombia	196,500	201,790	184,426	172,000	165,883
Economic Support Fund	196,500	201,790	184,426	172,000	165,883
Total with INL Transfer Funds	209,750	214,290	190,926	179,000	172,883
INL Transfer Funds	13,250	12,500	6,500	7,000	7,000

Note: This includes USAID-managed accounts only. INCLE funds were transferred to AID of approximately \$12 million in FY 2010 and \$6.5 million in FY 2011.

PROGRAMS

Goal

USAID supports Colombian efforts to transition out of conflict and towards durable peace. Colombia is not a typical aid recipient and the USAID commitment stems from the instability and strife associated with the country’s 50 year civil conflict. Colombia’s status as a steadily growing middle-income country masks severe inequities. In reality, there are two Colombias: a dynamic and sophisticated Colombia in a half-dozen urban centers such as Bogota and Medellin that coexist with a poor, conflict-ridden and neglected rural Colombia.

A true transition towards peace demands that Colombia address this duality as it lies at the center of the conflict and fuels an illicit rural economy of drug trafficking, extortion, illegal mining, and other maladies. The Government of Colombia (GOC) recognizes this and is actively working to redress the historic neglect of rural Colombia by ensuring citizen security; bringing the institutions, practices and services of democracy to ungoverned regions; redirecting investment to these areas; and promoting reconciliation among the conflict’s victims and perpetrators. While financial contributions of bilateral and multilateral donors amount to less than one-fifth of one percent of GDP, Colombia looks to USAID – the country’s largest bilateral donor - to help strengthen its capacity to address development challenges. Thus, from 2014-2018 USAID will be a major partner in Colombia with four overall objectives:

1. Increase presence of democratic institutions in targeted areas
2. Promote reconciliation for victims, ex-combatants, and citizens
3. Improved conditions for inclusive rural economic growth
4. Strengthening environmental resiliency and low-emissions development

DO1: INCREASE PRESENCE OF DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS IN TARGETED AREAS (Office of Democracy and Human Rights)

Overview

The absence of effective state institutions in many parts of Colombia's territory contributes to and exacerbates the grievances and consequences underpinning the conflict. Strengthening the presence and performance of national and sub-national institutions in far-flung rural areas is essential to fill the space currently occupied by illegal armed groups and for the effective implementation of any eventual peace agreement. Weak government institutions have been unable to effectively and consistently guarantee the democratic rights of citizens, administer justice impartially and transparently, invest public resources effectively and expeditiously, and deliver local services prioritized by citizens. USAID therefore focuses on supporting Colombian efforts to bring institutional presence, a human rights culture, increased public investment, and services to historically underserved and conflictive rural areas where illicit activity often goes unchecked.

One of the most basic functions of any state is to protect the rights of its citizens and ensure access to justice. In Colombia's recent past, human rights violations (massacres, assassinations, kidnappings and threats) have occurred with impunity, especially in neglected rural areas. Through Colombia's own efforts as supported by USAID, human rights trends have improved over the course of the past 10 or so years, but there is still more to be done. For this reason, USAID promotes a culture of respect for human rights that: prevents violations (i.e. via support for the Public Defender's Early Warning Systems), protects those under threat (i.e. Ministry of Interior's Protection Unit), supports investigations when abuses occur (Attorney General's Office), strengthens the ability of citizens to submit complaints (i.e. Ombudsman's Office), assists minority groups to defend their rights, and expands access to justice (i.e. alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, Justice Houses, and legal and other services for sexual violence victims). USAID efforts also aim to prevent capture of the political system by illegal groups and corrupt individuals by strengthening transparency and accountability of elected officials.

Helping Colombia to ensure government services reach all citizens, especially those in historically neglected areas, is a major challenge. To this end, USAID supports efforts to restructure public investment towards traditionally marginalized areas. USAID has worked with Colombian officials to develop groundbreaking policies and programs that consolidate state presence and licit development in areas recently stabilized by Colombia's security forces. Now, broader implementation of these policies and programs is critical. For example, efforts are underway to re-direct to underserved areas billions in revenues generated by royalties from the country's natural resource wealth. USAID is also supporting greater collaboration between national, departmental and municipal governments to rationalize billions of dollars of investments toward strategic projects in conflictive areas. In carrying out this work, USAID brings together local civil society organizations, public officials and the private sector to strengthen the ability of local governments to better respond to citizen priorities for services and infrastructure. Moreover, USAID helps national and local authorities, as well as civil society organizations, set up transparent systems to reduce corruption.

Human Rights Program III

Contractor: Chemonics

Duration: 2012 – 2015

Total Project Investment: \$21 million

Objective: This is USAID's largest human rights program. The Mission has previously supported human rights programming since 2001, in two five-year phases, and this third programming phase began in March 2012. The main objectives of the third program phase are to: 1) promote a culture of human

rights, 2) prevent abuse and violations of human rights, and 3) provide meaningful and efficient responses to human rights violations once they have occurred. The program is implemented through permanent presence in eight different regions.

Counterparts: This program is supporting a number of organizations and institutions, including the Ministry of Interior, the National Human Rights Ombudsman's Office (*Defensoria*), Municipal Ombudsmen (*personeros*), the National Inspector General's Office (*Procuraduria*), the National Police, the Vice Presidency, and Colombian human rights NGOs.

Grant to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Grantee: Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in Colombia (UNOHCHR).

Duration: 2010 – 2014

Total Project Investment: up to a ceiling of \$2.5 million

Objective: USAID supports the UNOHCHR's mandate to promote human rights, improve the GOC response to human rights violations and monitoring of the human rights situation in Colombia.

U.S. – Colombia Human Rights Law School Partnership

Grantee: Higher Education for Development (HED)

Duration: 2012 – 2015

Total Project Investment: \$4.9 million (USAID: \$4.4 million – HED: \$500K)

Objective: USAID will support three partnerships between U.S. law schools that focus on international human rights and regionally based law schools in Colombia. The initiative will improve human rights training and promote human rights respect and efforts to better serve vulnerable populations.

Counterparts: Three U.S. law schools (University of Minnesota, American University and the University of Florida); and eight Colombian universities (Universidad de Medellín, Universidad de Antioquia, Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana, Universidad Católica de Oriente, Universidad Javeriana de Cali, Universidad Santiago de Cali, Universidad del Norte, and Universidad del Magdalena).

Access to Justice Program

Contractor: Checchi and Company Consulting, Inc.

Duration: 2013 – 2017

Total Project Investment: \$23 million

Objective: The main goal of the program is to promote greater access to justice, primarily through Justice Houses and alternative dispute resolution, improved justice services, greater access to justice for women, and improved efficiency, productivity, and quality of justice services for all citizens in target areas. The program will also provide targeted assistance to Land Restitution Judges to improve their efficiency in case administration.

Counterparts: Ministry of Justice and Superior Judicial Council

Labor Union Strengthening Project II

Grantee: Solidarity Center

Duration: 2012 – 2015

Total Project Investment: \$3 million

Objective: The objectives are to: 1) strengthen the Colombian labor movement's participation in consolidating institutional and cultural change on workers' rights, and 2) promote the inclusion of vulnerable worker populations, especially women, in Colombia.

Counterparts: National Labor Violence Case Management Committee, trade unions, Ministry of Interior, Confederation of Workers of Colombia, and the General Labor Confederation.

Royalties Management Project

Grantee: Management Systems International

Duration: 2011 – 2015

Total Project Investment: \$4.3 million

Objective: The objective of the program is to provide technical support and training to improve the managerial capacity of local governments to effectively manage royalties and increase citizen participation to oversee the development of social infrastructure for vulnerable populations, in accordance with GOC laws and regulations. The program works in the municipalities of the USAID priority departments of La Guajira, Cordoba, and Meta.

Counterparts: National Planning Department, departmental governments in La Guajira, Cordoba, and Meta, and municipal governments.

Latin American Public Opinion Project

Cooperative Agreement: Vanderbilt University

Duration: 2005 - 2014

Total Project Investment: \$2.4 million

Objective: Under this cooperative agreement, Vanderbilt University and Los Andes University carry out polling of approximately 1,500 adults to measure democratic values and behaviors in Colombia using national probability samples of voting-age adults. The survey and the resulting report is a standardized collection of data, which permits a comparative analysis on democracy-related perceptions, issues, and citizens' attitudes. It has served as a critical source of baseline data for measuring the health of Colombia's democracy.

Ventana Unica

Grant: World Bank, International Finance Corporation

Duration: 2012 - 2014

Total Project Investment: \$900,000

Objective: The purpose of this project is to implement an information management system to link GOC customs control agencies. This system will reduce import and export process times and improve the secure movement of goods in and out of Colombia.

Counterpart: Ministry of Trade

USDA Trade Capacity Building

Inter-agency transfer: USDA

Duration: 2012 - 2014

Total Project Investment: \$500,000

Objective: This inter-agency agreement with USDA will strengthen the institutional capacities of key Colombian government agencies in support of the implementation of the FTA.

Counterparts: Ministry of Trade, Instituto Colombiano Agropecuario (ICA), INVIMA, and Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

DO2: PROMOTE RECONCILIATION FOR VICTIMS, EX-COMBATANTS AND CITIZENS (Office of Vulnerable Populations)

Overview

Fifty years of conflict and violence have created a tragic legacy of nearly six million victims, including over four million Colombians displaced from their homes, their land, and their communities. A critical step towards reconciliation was achieved in 2011 with the passage of Colombia's Victims and Land Restitution Law. This landmark legislation promotes reconciliation by addressing the needs of Colombia's conflict victims through comprehensive reparations, land restitution, truth telling, and psycho-social support. USAID is supporting this transformative process by helping build the capacity of the GOC's new Victims and Land Restitution Units, key entities charged with delivering services, reparations, and transitional justice to victims as mandated by Colombian law. As experiences in other post-conflict nations have demonstrated, "truth-telling" is a critical piece of the reconciliation process. "Truth telling" brings victims a sense of closure and raises societal awareness of the pain of the conflict, helping ensure that history does not repeat itself. USAID is supporting the Center of Historical Memory (established under the Victims Law) in its mission to document the tragedies of the past and conduct outreach in order to strengthen broad societal commitment to ensuring such systematic violence does not happen again.

In addition to its support to victims, USAID promotes the reintegration of ex-combatants back into society, as well as the rehabilitation of former child soldiers. USAID assists the Colombian Agency for Reintegration (ACR) to provide reintegrate services to 55,000 former fighters. This support will become that much more important should a GOC-FARC agreement to end the conflict be forthcoming and result in the disarmament and demobilization of anywhere between 8,000-30,000 FARC combatants and their supporters.

USAID support to the Institute for Family Welfare (ICBF) is key to rehabilitating child soldiers, a significant challenge for Colombia as it seeks to transition out of conflict. The ICBF has assisted over 5,000 former child soldiers to date and the demands for such assistance are likely to increase markedly in the event of a GOC-FARC agreement to end the conflict. Experts estimate that perhaps 30% or more of combatants are under the age of 18. These children are considered victims of the conflict and require special attention to successfully return to society. With both ACR and ICBF, USAID assistance has been key to developing and operating a comprehensive suite of services (from psycho-social services to job training and personal protection) as former rebels undertake the arduous process of coming back to society. USAID efforts aim to reduce the likelihood that demobilized combatants will join criminal gangs or engage in illicit activities.

Conflict Victims Project: Institutional Strengthening Activity

Grantee: International Organizations for Migrations

Duration: 2012 - 2015

Total Projected Investment: \$62 Million

Objective: To provide technical assistance to the GOC for the first three years of the implementation of the Victims' Law to ensure that effective institutions, policies and systems at all levels—national, departmental and municipal—are established and operational.

Conflict Victims Project: Families and Persons with Conflict-related Disabilities Activity

Grantee: Fundación Saldarriaga Concha

Duration: January 2013 – January 2015

Total Projected Investment: \$498,000

Objective: To provide technical assistance and training to improve the institutional response to the needs of families and persons disabled as a result of the conflict and promote social inclusion for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) who have been victims of the conflict.

Support to Landmine Victims

Grantee: Mercy Corps

Duration: August 2008 – December 2013

Total Projected Investment: \$4.2 million

Objective: To improve physical mobility and quality of life for landmine survivors to promote their effective integration into society while increasing Colombian capacity to provide relevant prosthetic and orthotic (P&O) services for landmine survivors and other persons with disabilities (PWDs).

Counterparts: Campaña Colombiana Contra Minas, Corporación Paz y Democracias, Hospital Universitario de Nariño, Hospital María Inmaculada Caquetá, SENA, Universidad Don Bosco.

PROTIERRA: People-to-People Resolution of Land and Natural Resources Conflicts in Colombia

Grantee: Mercy Corps

Duration: 2011 - 2014

Total Project Investment: \$1.6 million

Objective: To facilitate land rights, formalization and registration with a special focus on Afro-Colombian Community Councils (Consejos Comunitarios), Indigenous reservations (resguardos) and smallholder communities in the Darien Chocoano (Colombian Pacific Coast), benefiting from similar previous experiences in Guatemala. The project uses GPS and GIS technologies and a virtual platform called Red Tierras that provides opportunities for online exchanges of experiences, methodologies and technological training resources between community leaders and government officials for conflict mediation, ethno-territorial rights and land formalization processes.

Counterparts: Four Afro-Colombian Community Councils (Cocomacia, Cocomanguia, Comomasur and Cocomabocas,) Ministry of Agriculture's Institute for Rural Development (INCODER), and Mayors' Offices.

Community-Oriented Reintegration of Ex-combatants (CORE)

Grantee: International Organization for Migration

Duration: 2006 - 2014

Total Project Investment: \$124 million

Objective: CORE supports Colombian institutions to effectively manage reintegration. CORE provides technical assistance to the Colombian Agency for Reintegration (ACR) to design and implement GOC reintegration policy through a decentralized network of service centers. The goal is to support the successful graduation of 3,300 ex-combatants with 60% remaining productive and law-abiding six months after graduation and 8,500 cases meeting requirements for clear legal status.

Counterparts: GOC's Agency for Reintegration (ACR), Reintegration Service Centers and National Reparation and Reconciliation Commission.

Child Soldiers Program (CHS)

Grantee: International Organization for Migration

Duration: 2009 - 2014

Total Project Investment: \$19.5 million

Objective: To strengthen GOC institutions to comprehensively reintegrate “disengaged” children as victims of the conflict into non-conflictive environments and protect children from recruitment by Illegal Armed Groups (IAGs). The Colombian Family Welfare Institute (ICBF) reintegration package includes psychosocial support educational supplements, vocational training and legal assistance. The recruitment prevention initiative works with CIPRUNA, the Inter-sectoral Commission on Prevention of Recruitment, in using a variety of interventions including media campaigns, developing and implementing prevention of recruitment plans of action in municipalities, and setting up networks of citizens. During its third phase (2011 to 2014) the CHS program aims to build the ICBF’s capacity to assist an estimated 750 child ex-combatants (or “disengaged” children), work with the CIPRUNA to empower 12,000 children and youth in more than 50 municipalities (including high-risk indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities) to resist recruitment by illegal armed groups, and strengthen nine key GOC agencies that directly support essential program functions.

Counterparts: Colombian Institute for Family Welfare, CIPRUNA, youth, families and teachers.

Afro-Colombian and Indigenous Program (ACIP)

Implementing partner: ACDI-VOCA

Duration: 2011 - 2016

Total Project Investment: \$61.4 million

Objective: To improve the socio-economic and political inclusion of ethnic minorities into Colombian society.

Counterparts: Presidential Programs for Indigenous and Afro-Colombians, Ministry of the Interior, INCODER, indigenous and Afro-Colombian authorities, private sector companies, local and regional governments, civil society organizations.

Martin Luther King (MLK) Fellowship Program

Implementing partner: Bi-National Centers through an Inter-agency agreement with the Embassy Public Affairs Section

Duration: 2011 - 2014

Total Project Investment: \$380,890

Objective: To provide English language and leadership training for undergraduate Afro-Colombian students in the cities of Bogota, Medellin, Cali, Barranquilla, Quibdó, and Cartagena to enable them to better contribute to improving their communities.

Afro-Colombian Leadership and Scholarship Program

Implementing partner: Fulbright Colombia

Duration: 2007 - 2012

Total Project Investment: \$1 million

Objective: To provide graduate study and leadership training opportunities for emerging Afro-Colombian leaders who are committed to serving their communities to enable them to better contribute to community development.

Counterpart: Ministry of Education, ICETEX

DO3: IMPROVED CONDITIONS FOR INCLUSIVE RURAL ECONOMIC GROWTH (Office of Consolidation, Land, and Livelihoods)

Overview

A transition towards a sustainable and inclusive peace demands that Colombia strengthen its efforts to address long standing rural inequities. Improving rural security is not enough; rural residents must see an economic future in the licit economy. While Colombia's GDP has grown at 4.4% over the last five years and the middle class has expanded from 15 percent of the population in 2000 to over 28 percent today, rural areas, especially those wracked by conflict, have not shared in this prosperity. While the national poverty rate in Colombia fell from 45% to 33% from 2005-2012, nearly half of rural households still live in poverty. Fostering rural livelihoods by encouraging a diversified rural economy is a long-term endeavor, one that will take at least a generation and extraordinary GOC funding commitments. Over the short-term (i.e. five years) USAID has committed to helping the GOC create the pre-conditions for a vibrant rural economy with actions in three areas.

First, USAID will help the Ministry of Agriculture and other key institutions to return land to its rightful owners and speed the granting of land titles. USAID's assistance is helping modernize the cadaster system, permitting the GOC to maintain accurate land ownership and titling information, a key prerequisite to guaranteeing citizen's property rights. Second, USAID is helping spur greater public and private investment in the rural sector. For example, USAID is helping strengthen local governments' capacity to compete for and then manage Colombian public funds available for productive infrastructure projects. Often the problem is not lack of national funding for infrastructure, but the inability of local governments to put forward effective proposals. USAID is also engaged a major effort to help increase private sector investment in target rural municipalities, with nearly 20 partnerships pairing small producers with private firms to access higher paying markets for competitive agricultural products. Lastly, USAID is working to ensure that producer associations, a lynchpin of the rural economy, are better able to provide services and benefits to their members (mainly small farmers). For example, the coffee, cacao and rubber producers associations USAID supports provide a platform for producers to find markets and negotiate with large buyers. As these producer associations grow, they are also increasingly able to provide extension services to members, helping farmers escape poverty and the trap of drug crop production. USAID efforts help build the capacity and sustainability of such associations.

Land and Rural Development Program

Contractor: Tetra Tech ARD

Duration: 2013 - 2018

Total Project Investment: \$68 million

Objective: to build the capacity of Government of Colombia (GOC) institutions involved in the implementation of the land policy and rural development programs with a territorial focus to administer, manage, and implement programs to restitute land to victims of conflict, implement land formalization and access to land programs in prioritized rural areas, and promote sustainable and comprehensive rural development with a territorial focus that enables land beneficiaries to make productive and sustainable use of their land. The five-year program will focus its support to the GOC at the regional level, and will provide support at the national level to ensure that the bottlenecks for regional implementation are addressed to establish the conditions needed to ensure sustainable livelihoods for Colombians living in rural areas and will have a differentiated focus for gender and vulnerable populations.

Counterparts: Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, National Restitution Unit, INCODER, Colombian Geographic Institute (IGAC), National Land Registries.

Montes de Maria

Grantee: Global Communities Partners for Good (former CHF International)

Duration: April 2010 - April 2015

Total Project Investment: \$32 million

Objective: To improve governance and strengthen coordination mechanisms that enable ongoing civilian-led, whole-of-government interventions to contribute to the overall economic and social development of the region, with the participation of civil society. There is also major emphasis on licit livelihoods and job opportunities for conflict-affected populations. The Montes de María project covers the municipalities of El Carmen de Bolívar and San Jacinto in the department of Bolívar, and the municipalities of San Onófre and Ovejas in the department of Sucre.

Counterparts: Governors of Bolívar and Sucre, and the Mayors of El Carmen de Bolívar, San Jacinto, Ovejas, and San Onofre. Numerous GOC ministries/agencies, including the Ministry of Agriculture, INCODER, the Restitution Unit under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) and the Victims Unit under the Department for Social Prosperity (*Departamento para la Prosperidad Social*,) and the GOC's Administrative Unit for Territorial Consolidation (*Unidad Administrativa para la Consolidación Territorial*).

Central Region

Contractor: Tetra Tech-ARD

Duration: April 2011 - April 2016

Total Project Investment: \$115 million

Objective: To strengthen state presence as the GOC recovers territory and creates conditions favorable to permanent territorial security. Once territory is secured by the armed forces, immediate assistance will be provided to *veredas* (an administrative section of a municipality) affected by conflict. Project activities will help to build confidence in the GOC, provide the opportunity to build relations between communities and local government, and address local priorities. CELI-Central activities cover 20 municipalities in the departments of Cauca, Valle del Cauca, Meta, Caquetá, and Tolima.

Counterparts: The governors and mayors of respective municipalities and departments; numerous GOC ministries/agencies, including the Land Restitution Unit, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, INCODER, and the Administrative Unit for Territorial Consolidation.

North and South Regions

Contractor: Chemonics

Duration: October 2011 - October 2016

Total Project Investment: \$89.5 million

Objective: To strengthen state presence, build capacity of local governments, foster economic development, strengthen and build social capital and to assist land restitution programs. The CELI N/S project supports ten municipalities in northern Antioquia, five municipalities in Southern Córdoba and the municipality of Tumaco, Nariño (Southern Colombia).

Counterparts: The governors and mayors of respective municipalities and departments; numerous GOC ministries/agencies, including the land restitution unit, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, INCODER, and the Administrative Unit for Territorial Consolidation.

Putumayo Road Project

Fixed Amount Reimbursable (FAR) Agreement: INVIAS

Duration: 2007 – 2013 (to be extended through June, 2014 pending RLA and Mission Approval)

Total Project Investment: The agreement with the Government of Colombia (GOC) covers 50% of the anticipated US\$24 million (US\$12 million); the other half is being funded by the GOC's road construction agency, INVIAS and former Acción Social (now Department for Social Prosperity, DPS).

Objective: The purpose of the Putumayo Road Project is to maintain, repair and pave the road between the municipalities of Puerto Caicedo and Villagarzon, in the department of Putumayo. It will link rural producers with external and internal markets, as well as help bridge the infrastructure gap between Ecuador and Bogota. This current road project, which is Putumayo's most important connection to the rest of Colombia and Ecuador, is key to the region's economic development and overall security, as its construction has been long awaited by residents.

Counterpart: National Roads Institute (*Instituto Nacional de Vías- INVIAS*)

DO4: STRENGTHENING ENVIRONMENTAL RESILIENCY AND LOW-EMISSIONS DEVELOPMENT
(Office of Environment)

Overview

Sustainable environmental management is critical to protecting Colombia's economic future. Colombia is one of the most bio-diverse countries in the world, and its natural systems provide water and energy that contribute to economic productivity. For example, 30% of Colombia's water comes from the country's fragile paramo ecosystem. In addition, approximately 40% of Colombia's territory is covered with natural forest, giving the country tremendous capacity to store carbon and capture significant development investment from the nascent carbon market. USAID activities focus on improving natural resource management, including forest and watershed management, to reduce threats to biodiversity. USAID efforts strengthen the capacity GOC institution's to protect biodiversity, foster stakeholder participation in community-based conservation, and introduce best environmental practices, especially for mining, fisheries, and other productive systems.

It is no coincidence that the failure of the Colombian state of control vast swatches of biodiversity-rich Amazonian forest, inter-Andean valleys, and Pacific lowlands has been a driver of conflict. Without the state engaged in sound environmental management in these areas, the door was left open for illegal armed groups to exert control in these areas. Improved GOC capacity to administer these biodiversity-rich areas will help ensure that Colombia's natural riches cannot be used for illicit purposes (e.g. revenue from illegal gold mining revenues captured by the FARC and criminal groups).

Colombia's economic future also hinges on reducing vulnerability to changing climactic patterns. Case in point, the 2010-2011 floods in the Magdalena watershed which displaced approximately two million people and caused \$2.6 billion in damage. Climate change is both a humanitarian issue and a threat to long-term growth. USAID assists Colombia charting an economic path that can both reduce poverty while protecting the environment. For example, USAID supports GOC efforts to create incentives for firms and public sector entities to reduce their overall level of carbon emissions. USAID also helps build resilience to anticipated climate change impacts by helping local economics diversify and improve management of existing water supplies.

Conservation Landscapes Program

Cooperative Agreement: Fondo Patrimonio Natural

Duration: 2009 – 2015

Total Project Investment: \$15.9 million

Objective: To improve governance, biodiversity, and preservation of natural resources in protected areas and biodiversity hotspots by strengthening sustainable livelihoods for the associated communities.

Counterparts: National Parks Unit and Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development.

Support to Low Emissions Development Strategies

Government to Government Technical Assistance: US Forest Service, E3, and National Renewable Energy Labs

Duration: 2011 – 2013

Total Project Investment: \$2.1 million

Objective: To assist the government of Colombia in the cross-sectoral coordination of their Low Carbon Development planning and implementation. This includes completion of the economy-wide Low Carbon

Development Study, support for the development of the Low Carbon Development Strategy, the placement of four consultants within the Ministries of Transport, Industry, Agriculture, and Mines/Energy to develop internal tracking and promotion of nationally appropriate mitigation actions. As part of this process, USAID/Colombia has an agreement with National Renewable Energy Labs to provide technical training and support to each of the line ministries and the Colombian government's Office of Climate Change.

BIO-REDD+

Contractor: Chemonics International, OPTIM, Fundación Natura

Duration: 2011 – 2014

Total Project Investment: \$27.8 million

Objective: Through this activity USAID is supporting in biodiversity, climate change-mitigation (REDD), and climate change – adaptation activities in the Choco and Caribbean regions. The major goals of this program are the establishment of at least eight financed REDD+ projects in the pacific region (1 million hectares) with Afro-Colombian communities, as well as the carbon baseline for the pacific and amazon regions in support of Colombia's regional REDD+ program. BIO-REDD+ is developing an innovative approach towards biomass estimation in tropical forests and is working in partnership with NASA and other top level organizations to achieve VCS and CCBA certifications (technical and social standards requirements) for its REDD projects. There are several sources of leveraged financing being used, one is a partnership with the Colombian government for productive projects (\$3 million) and 2 MOUs signed with Althelia and Bunge/Ecoinvest. The latter two organizations are in the process of negotiating emissions purchase agreements with the communities by BIO-REDD+. (2 million tons of CO₂/per year for 20 years). BIO-REDD+ is also working in the Bajo Cauca Region (Northern Colombia), supporting the legalization and formalization of small gold miners, the technology transfer to improve gold extraction and reduce the environmental impacts and the use of mercury, and developing new approached to land reclamation after the mine is closed.

Counterparts: Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, Department of Planning, the *Instituto de Hidrología, Meteorología y Estudios Ambientales de Colombia (IDEAM)*, *Corporaciones Autonomas Regionales (CARs)*, Afro-Colombian Consejos, Indigenous Collective Territories (*Resguardos*), and local NGOs.

Colombia Clean Energy Project

Contractor: Tetra-Tech ES

Duration: 2012 – 2017

Total Project Investment: \$18.7 million

Objective: The project works in three areas; Energy Efficiency, Renewable Energy in Off-grid Areas, and Finance and Regulation (barriers for renewable investment). Under energy efficiency, the project connects financing to industries interested in upgrading or converting facilities to more efficient production processes as well as new technologies such as methane capture and gasification. For renewable off-grid projects, the goal is to provide renewable energy to 80 communities (mostly micro-hydro, solar) with private sector and government partners. Major barriers to renewable energy are reliability charges and the inability for industry to use “reverse metering”. There is plenty of finance in Colombia for viable projects, thus efforts are made to make projects “bankable” at either the large or community scale. The expected results will be an overall reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and electricity consumption for productive projects in rural development or consolidation zones.

Counterparts: IPSE (*Instituto de Planificación y Promoción de Soluciones Energéticas para las Zonas no Interconectadas*), Ministry of Mines and Energy, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development.

Ecosystem Based Adaptation in the Rio Magdalena

Cooperative Agreement: The Nature Conservancy

Duration: 2013 – 2016

Total Project Investment: \$1.5 million

Objective: In support of basin-wide adaptive management of the Rio Magdalena watershed, this project works to reduce flood risk in the lower basin by implementing ecosystem based adaptation methodologies for water storage and support land-use planning in the upper basin.

US Stockholm Environment Institute: Adaptation

Cooperative Agreement: Stockholm Institute

Duration: 2011 – 2014

Total Project Investment: \$1.5 million

Objective: In support of the national climate change system and in particular the national adaptation plan, the Stockholm Institute will: 1. conduct joint watershed planning processes across jurisdictions, between three CARs in the Cauca River basin and 2. work with the IDEAM, CARS, and Departments in the Rio Magdalena Watershed to identify upper basin actions that will reduce lower basin flood vulnerability.

Counterparts: IDEAM and Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development.

Carbon Financing

MOU: Althelia-Ecosphere, Bunge International, ENECO, TDM Transport, Development Credit Guarantee (DCA)

Total Project Investment: \$25 million-TBD

Objective: Connect Forest Conservation to market-based financing. In the process of working with Afro-Colombian and Indigenous Communities on forest conservation, USAID laid the groundwork for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD) readiness and the development of marketable carbon credit deals with international financiers. USAID currently has established existing relationships through MOUs with the Althelia investment fund and Bunge International, and Agricultural Commodities Group. Further, with the Development Credit Authority (DCA) an innovative credit guarantee mechanism was developed and is being used in the carbon transaction under development. The DCA guarantee covers 50% of the upfront investment made in carbon credits. The objective is to have 8 REDD+ projects validated, registered, and financed by September 2014, conserving more than 1 million hectares of natural forest.

Counterparts: 20+ Afro-Colombian Communities in the Choco Region (Colombian Pacific Coast).

Conserva Colombia

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy (TNC)

Duration: 2010 – 2014

Total Project Investment: \$730,000

Objective: The purpose of this initiative is to help develop the necessary documents to create local/regional (sub-national) protected areas. TNC provides technical assistance to selected organizations

to use public funds to create local protected areas in biologically sensitive/diverse areas, which can be part of the national protected area system.

Counterpart: Fund for Environmental Action and Children (*Fondo Para la Acción Ambiental y la Niñez*)

FUNDESMAG

Cooperative Agreement: FUNDESMAG (Ecopetrol Foundation for the Development of Central Magdalena)

Duration: 2012 – 2013

Total Project Investment: \$1 million (\$400,000 from USAID)

Objective: Public Private Partnership to install satellite internet, solar energy, and computers in 22 rural schools in the Nudo Paramillo region.

Counterparts: NewCom, Hybrytec, Eco-Petrol, and Ministry of Education.

Silva Carbon

Government to Government Technical Assistance: N/A (USG Direct Collaboration)

Duration: 2011 – 2014

Total Project Investment: \$2 million (for Colombia)

Objective: Interdisciplinary team from the U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Forest Service, NASA, EPA, USAID, and State Department working to support IDEAM and Ministry of Environment in developing state of the art methods for conducting greenhouse gas inventories, Colombia's Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) systems, carbon accounting, and forest inventories.

Counterparts: IDEAM, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, and IGAC

Agreement with DPS Unidad de Consolidación, Programa contra Cultivos Ilícitos

Contractor: USG Counterpart contribution from USAID/Colombia's BIOREDD+ Program

Duration: 2011 – 2014

Total Project Investment: \$5 million (\$2.5 million GOC)

Objective: Agreement to jointly fund productive projects linked to forest conservation in 3 Afro-Colombian Territories in the Pacific. GOC funds projects on food security, fisheries, agriculture, and small business through forest conservation agreements and community development plans, USAID funds validation of REDD+ and biodiversity projects, working together to graduate communities to market based financing.

Counterparts: Beginning with the Afro-Colombian Consejos of Bajo Mira, Con Costa, and Cajambre and expanding to 5 additional, DPS-Unidad de Consolidation-PCI, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, IDEAM.

Tropical Forest Conservation Act and the Enterprise for Americas Fund

Dept Swap Account managed by *Fondo Acción Ambiental*

Duration: N/A

Total Project Investment: \$3 million/annum

Objective: Through the Tropical Forest Conservation Act and the Enterprise for Americas Fund, a debt swap agreement between the USG and GOC was completed. Funds from debt payments are placed in

Fondo Acción Ambiental y La Niñez to finance small grants in the environment and child welfare sectors. The funds are managed by a board that consists of representation from the Government of Colombia (Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, National Department of Planning), Private Sector, Colombian NGOs, and USAID as the delegate for the US Ambassador.

Counterparts: GOC (DNP, MADS), NGOs, Private Sector, USAID.

AmaZONAS Andinas

Cooperative Agreement: The Nature Conservancy, Rain Forest Alliance

Duration: 2011 – 2014

Total Project Investment: \$5 million

Objective: To establish “net-zero deforestation” pilots in the countries of Peru, Ecuador, and Colombia while building a political union to work, on a regional basis, to coordinate forestry efforts in the Andean Amazon. In Colombia, this consists of two pilot projects in Caquetá.

Counterparts: Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development and CorpoAmazonia, Office of the US Special Envoy for Global Climate Change.

CROSS-CUTTING INITIATIVES

In addition to our three technical offices, USAID/Colombia manages a few cross-cutting initiatives to assist in our ability to provide sustainable development assistance.

Colombia Mission Support Services (CMSS)

Contractor: Olgoonik (Managed by PRO)

Duration: 2011-2014

Total Project Investment: \$12.5 million

Description: The CMSS activity facilitates quick access to local and international expertise to support the Government of Colombia (GOC) institutions and USAID in tasks like the formulation or implementation of key policy and program priorities. This is primarily accomplished by providing technical assistance directly to the GOC institutions and when needed mobilizing specialists to the field. This is a across the board activity that supports all four technical teams and the achievement of all of USAID/Colombia's development objectives.

Monitoring & Evaluation Program

Contractor: DevTech Systems and Econometría (Managed by PRO)

Duration: 2010 - 2015

Total Project Investment: \$8.5 million

Description: This contract supports USAID/Colombia's management information needs to facilitate informed program management decisions, as well as to shape the longer-term strategic direction and decision-making. The M&E mechanism provides performance monitoring, verification, and environmental compliance. The Program also provides regular periodic reviews of specific activities, or responses to individual M&E related needs, as requested by USAID/Colombia.

Evaluation and Analysis for Learning

Contractor: Management Systems International -MSI (Managed by PRO)

Duration: 2013 - 2018

Total Project Investment: \$11.8 million

Description: This contract provides USAID/Colombia with technical and advisory services for evaluation activities at the mission level to facilitate informed program management decisions, shape the longer-term strategic direction of programs and decision-making within the Mission, and enable USAID/Colombia to comply with USAID's Evaluation Policy. Specific activities include: (1) Design and implement quantitative and qualitative evaluation studies and assessments and (2) Provide evaluation technical assistance for USAID/Colombia development programs.