

COORDINATING LOW EMISSION DEVELOPMENT IN COLOMBIA



Colombia is working with EC-LEDS to build expertise in collecting, processing, and archiving greenhouse gas inventory data in the land-use sector.

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Colombia's economy has grown more than 4 percent per year for a decade, but climate change is posing new risks to sustaining that development. With the nation's coastal areas, mountain ranges, rain forests, plains, and river basins vulnerable to changing weather patterns and growing seasons, Colombia is

building resilience to climate change while working to curb emissions and pursue new options for low emission development.

QUICK FACT: Colombia's gross domestic product (GDP) has increased at an average rate of 4.2 percent per year over the past decade, with its greenhouse gas emissions growing along a similar pathway.¹

Adopting a proactive approach to transitioning to a clean energy future, Colombia has taken a global leadership role in creating a low emission development strategy (LEDS). Its LEDS—called

the Colombian Low Carbon Development Strategy—identifies climate change mitigation opportunities in Colombia, and the associated costs and benefits through 2040.

Through the Enhancing Capacity for Low Emission Development Strategies (EC-LEDS) program, Colombia is partnering with the United States to help finalize and implement its LEDS. EC-LEDS is working closely with Colombia's National Climate Change Committee, which was created to oversee its climate change programs and implement the inter-ministerial framework necessary to achieve its LEDS goals. Colombia and the United States are collaborating to:

- Build an institutional framework to implement Colombia's LEDS
- Develop and improve robust analysis techniques and tools for climate change decision-making
- Implement priority clean energy actions and reduce emissions from land use.

¹ "Colombia GDP Annual Growth Rate." Washington, DC: Trading Economics, 2013.

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.

SUPPORTING COLOMBIA'S LEDS PRIORITIES

To support Colombia in successfully implementing its low emission development strategy, EC-LEDS is working with the country to integrate mitigation action plans for key sectors into its National Development Plan.

Two examples of working areas within the EC-LEDS-Colombia partnership are integrating LEDS across the Colombian government and improving land-use management practices.

INTEGRATING LEDS INTO DEVELOPMENT

Integrating climate change mitigation into Colombia's development objectives represents a shift in the country's policy focus, so facilitating collaboration and coordination among the ministries and departments is a key aspect of EC-LEDS's technical assistance.

Joint activities include:

- Supporting specialists in six key ministries to build inter-ministerial support and technical expertise to address climate change challenges
- Building in-country technical expertise to support the design and implementation of LEDS
- Establishing a pilot program in the Huila department to develop subnational, climate-friendly strategies that focus on the agriculture, energy, and mining sectors, and can be replicated across the other 31 subnational departments.

IMPROVING LAND-USE MANAGEMENT

Colombia's economic development goals, which include expanding the agriculture and logging industries, could have significant impacts on the country's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Improved land-use management practices to mitigate these emissions while achieving its development goals are an important component of Colombia's LEDS. The EC-LEDS program is working with Colombia to support analytical decision-making within the land-use sector; and improve the creation and implementation of forestry programs with climate benefits.

EC-LEDS activities include:

- Building expertise in collecting, processing, and archiving GHG inventory data for the forestry and land-use sectors, providing a foundation for managing and monitoring land-use emissions over time
- Supporting market-based investment in forest conservation and increasing Colombia's capacity for implementing its Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) program to conserve, sustainably manage, and enhance forest carbon stocks
- Designing and implementing a system to monitor, report, and verify data on Colombia's natural resources to address deforestation and forest degradation.

EC-LEDS ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN COLOMBIA

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

Supported clean energy innovation and financing. EC-LEDS built capacity on renewable energy financing and smart grid technology, promoting low emission development in the energy sector.

Expanded use of analytical tools for LEDS planning. Using decision-making tools, such as marginal abatement cost curves, ministry staff identified and prioritized emission reduction opportunities in five key sectors (energy, transportation, agriculture, housing, and waste).

Strengthened institutions. EC-LEDS increased collaboration and coordination among ministries by supporting dedicated staff in key sectors: transportation; agriculture; commerce; industry and tourism; housing and water; planning; and energy and mines. Technical trainings and workshops were also held to develop inter-ministerial expertise surrounding LEDS.

For more information:

Christopher Abrams
USAID/Colombia
+1-202-268-4934
cabrams@usaid.gov

Ashley Allen
U.S. Department of State
Office of Global Change
+1-202-485-1535
allena4@state.gov

Collin Green
USAID Office of Global
Climate Change
+1-202-712-4505
cgreen@usaid.gov

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