

# U.S. GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS LOW EMISSION ECONOMIC GROWTH

“All of our countries will be affected by a changing climate... [W]e need to establish the tools and financing to help developing nations embrace clean energy, adapt to climate change, and ensure that there's not a false choice between economic development and the best practices that can save our planet.”

– Remarks by U.S. President Barack Obama on Sustainable Development Goals to the United Nations, September 27, 2015



Lead tower construction manager for Sitakunda installs instrumentation on 80 meter Meteorological “Met” Tower used to measure the wind resource in Bangladesh.

PHOTO BY HARNESS ENERGY

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 (LEDS)—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 implement their LEDS, transform their economies, and further their national development objectives.

## EC-LEDS SUPPORTS PARTNER COUNTRIES

The United States is collaborating with more than 25 partner countries to support the design and implementation of transformative, low emission policies and actions by:

Providing targeted technical assistance through:

- Developing a robust and transparent national GHG inventory, to identify, quantify, and track the impacts of low emission actions and policies
- Supporting clean energy and sustainable landscapes policies and actions that lead to transformational change in the highest emitting sectors
- Enabling investment and financing in low emission technologies and sectors.

Building and sharing knowledge through:

- The LEDS Global Partnership, which brings together more than 160 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 exchange experiences with the United States and each other on low emission development
- Tools and resources necessary to address technical and regulatory issues common across many countries.

## EC-LEDS

ENHANCING CAPACITY FOR LOW EMISSION DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

## THE EC-LEDS PROGRAM

**Low emission development strategies (LEDS) are development frameworks 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, Ethiopia, 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

EC-LEDS supports climate change strategies and national development priorities, undertaking a range of efforts that are tailored to each country's unique needs and circumstances. In 2015, EC-LEDS supported the development of Intended Nationally Determined Contributions for submission to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change for 11 partner countries. Additional highlights include:

**COLOMBIA.** EC-LEDS supported the design of Colombia's Sectoral Mitigation Action Plans (SMAPs) for the transport, mining, energy, hydrocarbon, housing, and solid and water waste sectors. Colombia incorporated the SMAP-defined priorities for GHG reductions into its 2014 Ministry of Mines and Energy Resolution 90325. EC-LEDS is now supporting the design of the implementation roadmap of prioritized measures of the housing, solid and water waste and industry SMAPs. EC-LEDS also helped Colombia leverage \$20 million dollars of international funding for a transit-oriented development NAMA.

**GEORGIA.** The U.S.-Georgia partnership developed the Georgian Electricity Market Model 2015 to provide new hydropower plants with transparent regulations, trading tools, and risk mitigation options; create a private investment framework; and expand local and regional electricity markets. U.S. energy experts also identified network congestion and regional transmission infrastructure improvements necessary to ensure power grid stability. Together, these efforts enabled up to 700 megawatts (MW) of clean electricity export capacity, reducing carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions in the region by up to 1.6 million tons per year.

**MALAWI.** To reduce GHG emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in Malawi, the EC-LEDS program in 2015

sponsored a dedicated advisor to help the Malawi Department of Forestry draft a 5-year national REDD+ action plan. The plan—developed with stakeholder input—establishes a comprehensive framework for achieving the country's national REDD+ readiness priorities, developing a long-term, 30-year REDD+ strategy, and reducing emissions from deforestation. EC-LEDS is supporting implementation of the plan, which has the potential to radically alter Malawi's long-term GHG emission trajectory.

**MEXICO.** Mexico's flagship *General Climate Change Law* targets a 50% reduction in national GHG emissions by 2050, and sets an ambitious goal of 35% renewable electricity by 2024. Through EC-LEDS assistance in developing a grid-integration roadmap and updating solar resource maps, Mexico established technically achievable targets of 24.9% clean energy by 2018, 40% by 2035, and 50% by 2050. EC-LEDS resources will continue to help Mexico address grid-integration challenges, promote investment in clean energy development, and design renewable energy priority zones.

**INDONESIA.** EC-LEDS efforts directly support Indonesia's clean energy goal of 23% by 2025. Since 2011, with EC-LEDS support, Indonesia has identified 118 small-scale [less than 10 megawatts (MW)] renewable energy and energy efficiency projects for financing and deployment. With a total estimated capacity of 866 MW, this effort, led by USAID's Indonesia Clean Energy Development Project, will provide clean energy access for 9.3 million people and reduce annual GHG emissions from the energy sector by 3.9 million tons carbon dioxide-equivalent, which is like taking more than 820,000 cars off the road for a year<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Calculated using: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency GHG Equivalencies Calculator <http://www2.epa.gov/energy/greenhouse-gas-equivalencies-calculator>



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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