Enhancing Capacity for Low Emission Development Strategies (EC-LEDS) is a U.S. government program to support developing countries’ efforts to pursue long-term, transformative development and accelerate sustainable, climate-resilient economic growth while slowing the growth of greenhouse gas emissions. The program is an integral part of U.S. government efforts to provide fast start climate financing and will build capacities in partner countries, provide targeted technical assistance, and build a shared global knowledge base on low emission development. EC-LEDS supports and enhances country-led development programs, plans, and policies, and complements efforts of other international donors and organizations to support low emission development strategies (LEDS).

Low Emission Development Strategies

A LEDS articulates concrete actions, policies, programs, and implementation plans to advance economic growth, improve environmental management, reduce the growth rate of greenhouse gas emissions, and meet development objectives.

A Robust LEDS Could Include the Following Elements:

- A country’s integrated development goals and objectives, national greenhouse gas inventory, and economic and resource data
- Long-term projections of business-as-usual economic growth and greenhouse gas emission pathways
- Alternative development scenarios that achieve economic and development goals while slowing the growth rate of greenhouse gas emissions and supporting climate change resilience
- Prioritized policies, programs, and measures—identified through broad stakeholder engagement—that support the low emission development scenarios
- Implementation plans and strategies for attracting private sector investment.
Supporting Country-Driven LEDS

The U.S. Government pursues a two-pronged strategy for promoting tailored, country-driven LEDS.

1. U.S. Provides Targeted Technical Assistance for LEDS Development and Implementation

The United States will work with partner countries and key stakeholders to respond to their unique needs and priorities through targeted technical assistance and support to:

- Enhance and strengthen existing low emission strategies, plans, and processes to ensure they are robust, transparent, and actionable
- Strengthen in-country human and institutional capacity for LEDS development, revision, and implementation
- Identify key policies, programs, and financing sources to advance low carbon growth

As of November 2012, the United States is working with more than 20 countries as part of the EC-LEDS program. The United States has established joint EC-LEDS work programs with 13 countries, including Albania, Bangladesh, Colombia, Costa Rica, Gabon, Indonesia, Kenya, Macedonia, Mexico, Moldova, the Philippines, Serbia, and Vietnam.

2. Building a Shared Knowledge Base on LEDS

The United States is working with a wide range of partners to promote low emission development around the world through several avenues, including the LEDS Global Partnership. Launched in early 2011, the LEDS Global Partnership currently brings together more than 90 governments and international institutions. The LEDS Global Partnership was jointly founded by the United States and a number of other governments, multilateral institutions, and non-governmental organizations to advance low emission development through coordination, information exchange, and cooperation among programs and countries. Following a global workshop in spring 2012, LEDS Global Partnership platforms in Asia, Africa, and Latin America and a number of topical working groups were formed to advance coordination and peer learning at regional and sectoral levels. To learn more about LEDS Global Partnership activities and membership please visit http://en.openei.org/wiki/LEDSGP. The United States has also supported the development of a LEDS Web portal at http://openEI.org/LEDS. The site provides access to more than 2,000 tools, programs, and resources related to low emission development.

Recent EC-LEDS Highlights

Energy. Through EC-LEDS, the United States and Bangladesh are partnering to accelerate wind power development in Bangladesh with a rigorous wind monitoring and modeling project designed to provide high-quality data for decision makers and investors.

Agriculture. The U.S.-Mexico EC-LEDS partnership is helping to integrate low emission development practices into Mexico’s existing rural extension program, through peer-to-peer exchanges and workshops.

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“The EC-LEDS program works with partner countries to address development priorities while building support and capacity to lower emissions. This program demonstrates that addressing climate change and advancing economic development go hand-in-hand.”
—Todd Stern, U.S. Special Envoy for Climate Change

“Much more than just a climate change or energy program, the EC-LEDS program takes an economy-wide approach and recognizes the importance to development of reducing emissions and climate vulnerabilities. Our development efforts work to build partner countries’ abilities to respond to the needs of their citizens and reduce poverty effectively and sustainably in a changing climate. EC-LEDS is really about sustainable economic growth.”
—Kit Batten, USAID Global Climate Change Coordinator
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