



FACT SHEET

Enhancing Capacity for Low Emission Development Strategies

Enhancing Capacity for Low Emission Development Strategies (EC-LEDS) is a U.S. Government initiative 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 initiative will build capacities in partner countries, provide targeted technical assistance, and build a shared global knowledge base on LEDS. This program is country-driven; support for creating and implementing a LEDS will be tailored to each country's unique capacity, technical, analytical, and policy needs.

Low Emission Development Strategies

A Low Emission Development Strategy (LEDS) is a strategic framework that articulates concrete actions, policies, programs and implementation plans to advance economic growth, improve environmental management, and meet development objectives. This framework provides a foundation for achieving long-term, measurable greenhouse gas emission reductions as compared to a business-as-usual development pathway.

The following elements form a general framework that illustrates the U.S. perspective on LEDS:

- 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, slow the growth rate of GHG emissions and support climate change resilience
- A set of prioritized policies, programs and measures – identified through broad stakeholder engagement – that are necessary to achieve the low emission development pathway
- Domestic implementation plans that include strategies for attracting private sector investment and channeling international support from a range of sources and appropriate partners necessary to facilitate implementation

U.S. Government Support for country-developed LEDS

1. Provide Targeted Technical Assistance for LEDS Development and Implementation

The U.S. will work with each partner country, including key stakeholders, to respond to its unique needs and priorities through targeted technical assistance and support to help partner countries:

- Enhance and strengthen existing strategies, plans and supporting processes to ensure they are robust, transparent and actionable
- Work with both government and civil society partners to strengthen in-country human and institutional capacity, and provide tools and approaches to assist with LEDS management, revision, and implementation
- Identify key policies, programs and financing sources and assist with designing policies and implementation plans that will promote climate-resilient economies and lead to lower-emission futures in key sectors and areas of the economy

The EC-LEDS program supports and enhances country development programs, plans, and policies and will complement efforts of other international donors.

2. Build a Shared Knowledge Base on LEDS

A key priority for the U.S. is to build the long-term capacity for all partner countries to own, manage, improve and guide implementation of LEDS. The U.S. will collaborate with governments, stakeholders, practitioners and the international donor community to facilitate the exchange of experience, best practices, data, and results. An initial product of this effort is a new LEDS web portal, available at <http://openEI.org/LEDS>, which provides customized search capability of more than 1,000 tools, programs, and resources.

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