



Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use (AFOLU) Working Group

The Low Emission Development Strategies Global Partnership (LEDS GP) Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use (AFOLU) Working Group was convened at the Asia LEDS Forum in 2013, organized jointly by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)-supported Lowering Emissions in Asia's Forests (LEAF) program and the United States Forest Service (USFS). The AFOLU Working Group is evolving from its Asian roots by reaching out to African and Latin American colleagues to engage LEDS land use practitioners, decision makers, and researchers. The Working Group's goals are to:

1. Promote and facilitate information, knowledge sharing, and adoption of tools and solutions for climate resilient, low emission development across the agriculture, forestry, and other land use sectors.
2. Identify finance options for enhanced integration of AFOLU activities in the implementation of LEDS and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

The Working Group is managed by a steering committee, a secretariat (Global Environment Centre, Malaysia, offering membership and reporting services), and a technical support unit (Winrock International, USA, coordinating analytics and technical assistance). The AFOLU Working Group currently has over 800 members who receive key updates in a quarterly AFOLU e-newsletter.

Its services include program development and expertise through a wide range of technical workshops, held jointly with coordinating organizations, including the Center for People and Forests (RECOFTC), the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), USFS, USAID, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and LEDS GP's Asia, Latin America and Caribbean (LAC), and Africa Regional Platforms. The Working Group offers additional services in technical assistance, case study development, guidance documents, peer learning, and hosting webinars.

Priority areas:

- **Forestry:** Carbon accounting methods, planning to mitigate and reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+), methods and implementation, and the relationship between REDD+ and LEDS.
- **Agriculture:** Carbon accounting methods and finance options, climate-smart agriculture.
- **Finance:** Types and assessment methods for land use activities.
- **Land use:** Planning and assessment.



Technical support

LEDS GP's Remote Expert Assistance on LEDES (REAL) service supports requests from developing country LEDES teams, including government agencies and consultants, technical institutions, and NGOs, that are working directly with country governments to plan and implement their LEDES. Teams may submit multiple, successive requests, including follow-on inquiries. For more information please visit www.ledsgp.org/assistance.

AFOLU Working Group REAL requests

Requests: Several countries and organizations such as the SilvaCarbon program in Bangkok, the Asia LEDES Partnership, and the LEDES LAC Regional Platform, have highlighted the need for more detailed methods of carbon accounting for mangroves, identification of types of finance available for land use activities, and an assessment of the relationship between REDD+ and LEDES land use initiatives.

Actions taken: The Working Group co-supported and provided experts in the following technical workshops:

- Regional workshop on incorporating mangroves into national greenhouse gas inventories (March 2016, Siem Reap, Cambodia)
- National workshop on mangrove carbon stocks and implications for conservation and management (March 2016, Phnom Penh, Cambodia).

Outcome: The mangrove workshops produced a rich summary of available methods and gaps in methods as well as identifying next steps in carbon accounting for mangroves. These are being collated for sharing more widely.



Broader training

The following events provided broader training and information exchange:

- Panel on private sector involvement in achieving AFOLU NDCs: environmental, social, and governance factors and the banking sector (Asia LEDES Partnership Forum, Hanoi, June 2016)
- Presentation on interactions and contradictions between REDD+ readiness planning and finance, and LEDES land use plans (LEDES LAC annual meeting, September 2016, Panama City).

Outcome: The Hanoi finance panel identified areas for early work to reform environmental, social, and governance standards in private banks to leverage lending practices to small and medium agricultural enterprises. The event also presented country mini case studies from Peru and Guatemala and these will be shared as a formal paper and webinar. Practitioners at the LAC workshop generated learning on how REDD+ readiness, plan development, and finance do not yet integrate well with emerging LEDES plans and finance, which each have separate origins and organizations driving them. Finding ways to integrate them is a critical need. These governance challenges will be considered further in Partnership activities.

Join us

Find out more by visiting our website: www.ledsgp.org/working-groups/afolu, and join us by sending an email to afolu@ledsgp.org, or contact the Secretariat: AFOLU WG Secretariat, Global Environment Centre, Selangor DE, Malaysia, Tel: + 603 7957 2007. Fax: + 603 7957 7003. E-mail: afolu@ledsgp.org

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