



## Low Carbon Resilient Development Program (LCRD)



Valledupar, Colombia. Photo: Google Earth

Colombia's economy has grown more than four percent per year for a decade, but climate change is posing new risks to sustaining development. Colombia is building resilience to climate change while working to curb emissions and pursue new options for low emissions development.

Since 2011, the U.S. Government Enhancing Capacity for Low Emission Development Strategies (EC-LEDS) initiative has supported the Colombian Low Carbon Development Strategy (*Estrategia Colombiana de Desarrollo Bajo en Carbono - ECDBC*). The ECDBC is one of the three national strategies of the Government of Colombia (GOC)

to mitigate climate change in addition to the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and the Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD) Strategy. The United States Agency for International Development's (USAID) LCRD program builds on what has been achieved to date through EC-LEDS by combining low carbon and adaptation interventions at the national, subnational and local levels. USAID links national policies and planning related to climate change adaptation and mitigation to implementation at the national and sub-national levels of government. This enables collaboration between the various levels of government responsible for implementation.

### COMPONENTS

#### 1. An Enabling Environment for Low Carbon and Climate Resilient Development

As part of the ECDBC and NAP implementation processes, USAID supports the GOC to implement mitigation measures in the approved Sectorial Mitigation Action Plans (SMAPs), in particular those that have a subnational scope in sectors such as transportation, housing and territorial development, industry and sanitation. USAID provides technical assistance, assessments, and evaluations to:

- Establish climate resilient evaluation criteria in the design of policies, programs and decision-making involving nationally financed infrastructure projects to be implemented at the local level.
- Provide technical inputs addressing climate change vulnerability and resilience considerations into guidelines, policies and/or projects related to regional and territorial planning.
- Disseminate, raise awareness, and increase the use of the tools and information the country has produced on climate change mitigation and adaptation responses.

#### 2. Low Carbon Resilient Cities and Regions: From Design to Implementation

The main objective of this component is to assist local authorities and stakeholders to identify how existing development priorities can incorporate low carbon and climate resilient measures and support detailed designs and enabling conditions for its implementation. USAID works with intermediate cities (from 100,000 to 1 million inhabitants) to help accelerate or unlock local investments in low carbon resilient interventions and enhance longer term climate oriented local planning processes includes the following approach:

- For adaptation, USAID carries out an initial participatory assessment to identify climate stressors, vulnerability conditions, key interventions zones and adaptation options in both rural and urban settings.
- For mitigation, actions prioritized in the SMAPS matching local development priorities, guide LCRD assistance in the local setting. USAID supports detailed designs of those mitigation and adaptation options. Support includes providing feedback and sharing lessons learned with local and national stakeholders and providing inputs for national decision making, policy formulation, and in the longer term informing local planning processes.
- At the regional level, USAID supports the Department of Huila in the implementation of the Plan Huila 2050. Institutional long term capacity, local planning in selected municipalities, water planning and use and payment for environmental services are some of the key areas LCRD is providing assistance with the goal to accelerate implementation of the Plan.

### 3. Cross-cutting Support

All USAID related activities address monitoring and reporting efforts in tracking progress towards a low carbon development and the design of general methodologies to understand vulnerability indicators in infrastructure services in local settings. At both the national and subnational levels, USAID helps in the design phase to address possible financing schemes for the proposed measures or interventions with the aim to involve not only public but also private funding. USAID also creates and enhances technical expertise of government representatives through mechanisms such as workshops, trainings, dissemination of relevant information, among others.

### KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Last September 2015, Colombia submitted its Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Colombia committed to reduce its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 20% with respect to the projected Business-as-Usual (BAU) scenario by 2030. USAID supported the technical process with specific studies in transport, waste, agriculture, forestry and other land use sectors. These sectors represent about 75% of the total GHG emissions in 2010 (baseline year) and will represent about 65% of the BAU scenario in 2030.
- USAID supported the development of eight SMAPs that were adopted by sectorial Ministries. The SMAPS include Electricity (Energy), Mines and Hydrocarbons, Industry, Agriculture, Territorial Development and Housing, Waste Water management, and Transportation.
- Seven Specific NAMAs (Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions) are under design following ECDBC and SMAPs frameworks. These NAMAs include: Transit Oriented Development, waste, off-grid electrification, public lighting and urban development and housing.
- USAID supported the integration of low carbon development strategies in the National Development Plan 2014-2018. The Plan indicates that all sectors should work in the implementation of the SMAPs and sets low carbon goals under the green growth chapter. Regarding the finance agenda, EC-LEDS supported part of the readiness process to access the Green Climate Fund (GCF).
- USAID helped to the development of the Climate Change Plan Huila 2050. Inputs for the plan include assessments of deforestation, greenhouse gas emissions and vulnerability to climate change by municipality. The Plan, which has been adopted by the Department of Huila, prioritizes five areas: intelligent management of water resources, biodiversity and ecosystem services, agricultural production and food security, energy resources, and resilient environments.

#### Contact Information:

Todd Hamner  
Director Environment Office  
USAID/Colombia  
thamner@usaid.gov

Carolina Figueroa  
Climate Change Advisor  
USAID/Colombia  
cfigueroa@usaid.gov

Sandra Garavito Rojas  
Project Director  
Low Carbon Resilient Development Project  
sgaravito@lcrdcolombia.org