EC-LEDS SUPPORTS DEVELOPMENT AND CLIMATE-FOCUSED ACTION IN ZAMBIA

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In Zambia, economic growth, health, and other key development objectives are critical priorities. At the same time, the Government of the Republic of Zambia (GRZ) recognizes the need to respond to the challenges of climate change. With support from the EC-LEDS program, the GRZ is leading stakeholder-driven efforts to explore synergies between development objectives and climate action. Zambia recently demonstrated leadership in this area through assessing development impacts of various mitigation options detailed in the country’s Intended Nationally Determine Contribution (INDC) submission to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Zambia’s leadership in assessing development impacts of mitigation actions started long before the INDC process. Beginning in 2014, the Zambian Ministry of Lands, Natural Resources and Environmental Protection and USAID, via the EC-LEDS program, partnered with local technical institutions and stakeholders to assess and communicate development impacts of LEDS actions. The partnership commenced with workshops and training sessions with the Zambian Center for Energy, Environment, and Engineering (CEEEZ) to champion a development impact assessment (DIA) process in Zambia.

A key aspect of the DIA process in Zambia was use of the DIA visual tool. The DIA visual tool, developed by the LEDS Global Partnership, provides an approach to identify, document and communicate the potential impacts LEDS actions on a country’s social, economic, and environmental development priorities. The DIA tool can support decision-makers in exploring potential policy synergies and tradeoffs in order to achieve development goals and help build consensus for action among stakeholders. Zambia’s DIA process, complemented by the DIA visual tool, is outlined in Figure 1.

Zambia’s DIA process and co-benefit analysis, supported through EC-LEDS, informed prioritization of key actions included in the mitigation component of Zambia’s INDC under three areas: Sustainable Agriculture, Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency, and Sustainable Forest Management. For example, the co-benefits of renewable energy and energy efficiency actions described in Zambia’s INDC include:

- Improved health impact due to child and maternal mortality and retention of medical personnel
- Improved food security due to increase agriculture production resulting from use of irrigation especially for women
- Increased rural development impacts due to increases economic activities through small and medium enterprises
- Reduced indoor air pollution and load shedding
- Reduced GHG impacts and improved air quality
- Reduced energy deficits

The USG, via the State Department, also supported further analysis of the mitigation component of Zambia’s INDC, illustrating that proposed mitigation actions have the potential to reduce the country’s greenhouse gas emissions by 25% to 47% by 2030.
USAID-supported engagement with Zambia on DIA has evolved over the past several years. Following the initial DIA trainings in 2014, CEEEZ used the DIA tool to assess development impacts of four Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action proposals and monitoring and evaluation frameworks for efficient charcoal production, sustainable agriculture, integrated waste management, and small hydro implementation. Starting in late 2015, GRZ, the Rural Electricity Authority and CEEEZ also began developing a DIA framework to assess impacts of rural electrification projects.

According to Nancy Serenje Ng’oma, Centre Coordinator for CEEEZ, “The DIA framework has provided a broad view of impacts (both positive/negative, and even those not thought of initially), aided identification of linkages across sectors, assisted in identifying actors/stakeholders (old and new) and has facilitated the bringing together of information from various sources thereby creating databases (especially in cases where there was a storage of information). Zambia … will continue to employ and explore the DIA visual tool in all projects because the products of analysis with it ease presentation of results and decision making.”

Building on the successes of DIA activities in Zambia and other countries, the EC-LEDS program and LEDS Global Partnership have developed a number of resources to support development impact assessment globally. The EC-LEDS DIA webpage provides a DIA web tutorial, a downloadable version of the DIA visual tool, DIA case studies, a link to a DIA tool finder, and information on other key resources to support country-led development impact assessment.