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**Low Emission
Development**



USAID/Low Emission Development Project

General Information

On June 27, 2014, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) awarded International Resources Group with contract no. AID-520-C-14-00003 to provide technical assistance to the Government of Guatemala (GOG) for the development and implementation of a low emission development strategy (LEDS).

The Project will support USAID/Guatemala and the GOG, private sector, academia, and non-governmental organizations to strengthen local capacities to implement projects that reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in large- and small-scale agriculture, natural resources management, and other types of land use.

The goal is to demonstrate the viability of meeting economic targets while contributing to the achievement of climate change mitigation objectives.

Outcomes

- LEDS guiding document developed to detail and record the LEDS process and integration into existing or new national development strategies, policies, and plans.
- Support adoption of mitigation actions identified and included in the LEDS to facilitate reduction in GHG emissions and increased GDP, in alignment with Guatemala's development priorities.



Main Objectives

The overall objective of the project is to partner with the GOG to develop and implement a LEDS and build institutional capacity to reduce the effects of climate change and mitigate GHG emissions.

To achieve this, the project will identify ways to support the GOG on the planning, design, policy development, and implementation of LEDS, as well as promote participatory processes with the private sector and civil society.

Partners: Our consortium has four local partners and one U.S.-based subcontractor, as summarized below:

Organization	Roles and Responsibilities
IRG, a RTI International Company	Prime contractor and technical lead across program components; overall responsibility for project outcomes and impacts; program management and oversight
Geotecnológica	Design GHG data collection systems, GHG inventory standardization; contribute to field-level LEDS activities and capacity-building.
Grupo Agroindustrial Occidente (GAO)	Review/design options for climate finance, including access to carbon markets; help develop green investment strategy for private sector organizations.
Instituto Privado de Investigación sobre Cambio Climático (ICC)	Conduct applied research in agriculture sector; help design/coordinate demonstration activities; develop technology transfer strategies for large- or small-scale agriculture.
Instituto de Agricultura, Recursos Naturales y Ambiente (IARNA)	Conduct research on data standardization and local emission factors; help build capacity of GOG agencies related to data collection and analysis.
Center for Climate Strategies (CCS)	Advise on overall LEDS process; facilitate tailoring of GHG inventory tools and methods to Guatemalan context; strengthen capacity of the GOG on economic modeling and forecasting; facilitate prioritization of national mitigation actions.

Status

Progress toward the Project's primary deliverable is underway. In July 2016, the Project launched the LEDS action planning process in coordination with several GOG ministries, focusing on the medium- and long-term strategies for climate change mitigation in key economic sectors of the Guatemala economy.

Working groups have been established for agriculture, industry, energy supply and demand, transportation, waste, and forestry and other land use. Each working group is reviewing economic and GHG emission baselines, reviewing potential policy responses for economic growth and emission reductions, and carrying out a cost-benefit analysis for each potential policy response. The priority policies and actions from each working group will together form Guatemala's LEDS. We anticipate completing the working group sessions and finalizing the LEDS by November 2017.

