



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPES

OVERVIEW

USAID has worked with more than two dozen countries to protect, manage, and restore forests and other landscapes. Sustainable landscapes programs focus on countries where globally important forests are threatened and where degradation of wetlands, peatlands, and agricultural land impairs development and drives emissions. Deforestation and land degradation lead, among other things, to losses in biodiversity and degraded water resources, and represent nearly a quarter of global greenhouse gas emissions. Unsustainable land use often results from agricultural expansion, and poor agricultural management, illegal logging, damaging charcoal and timber production, and insecure land and resource rights, among other trends.

Sustainable landscapes programs help partner country institutions improve policies – build better systems to conduct forest inventories and monitor, report, and verify carbon emissions – create incentives for stewardship and promote sound management practices and systematic, landscape-wide solutions. Improving forest and other land management not only increases carbon storage, but better management often increases land productivity, improves forest-dependent livelihoods, buffers watersheds and coastlines, protects water resources and maintains habitats, and makes people and places more resilient to natural hazards.

PHOTO: Tikal National Park at sunrise. Tikal, Guatemala.
Photograph by Jason Houston for USAID.

APPROACH AND RESULTS

- **Monitoring, Verification and Reporting**
24 countries improved forest inventories and capacities since 2010 through the U.S. government program SilvaCarbon.
 - Colombia is now a regional leader in forest carbon monitoring, using state-of-the-art mapping and methods to capture up-to-date information about land cover changes and informing decisions related to the peace process in previously inaccessible forest areas.
- **Improving Forest Livelihoods**
175,000 people improved their livelihoods in 2018
 - 83,227 people improved their livelihoods through beekeeping and conservation farming in Zambia.
- **Mobilizing Finance for Livelihoods and Sustainability**
83 million tons of greenhouse gases emissions were reduced in FY 2018.
 - Cumulative forest loss was measurably lower in communities of Maringa Lopori Wamba region that were supported by the Central African Regional Program for the Environment than in areas not assisted (Democratic Republic of Congo).
- **Improved Conservation and Management**
Almost a half billion dollars have been mobilized for sustainable land use activities since 2016.
 - A \$4 million USAID credit guarantee to the Althelia Fund leveraged more than \$120 million, and improved management on 2.2 million hectares of forest in Peru, Indonesia, and Rwanda.



SPOTLIGHT ON MOBILIZING FINANCE

USAID assists Vietnam's Payment for Forest Environmental Services (PFES) program, which mobilizes domestic resources to finance forest conservation. This work builds on years of cooperation – USAID initiated PFES with Vietnam's government in 2007. The program now mobilizes \$120 million annually in forest protection revenue and is expanding to cover 10 million hectares of forest. Under the program, hydropower plants and other companies that depend on healthy forests to produce the water they need pay communities to care for upstream forests. USAID is working with the Vietnam Forest Protection and Development Fund to pilot a monitoring and evaluation framework in one province.

The pilot will track environmental, socio-economic, and operational indicators to help it evaluate PFES system impact and effectiveness. USAID also helps forest-dwelling communities to strengthen and diversify their livelihoods. In FY 2018, USAID helped 1,000 acacia farmers shift crop cycles of three to four years to 8-10 years, in accordance with Forest Sustainability Certification (FSC) standards. More than 5,000 farmers learned about FSC standards and benefitted from a partnership with buyers. An IKEA supplier, Scansia Pacific, agreed to buy FSC-certified acacia wood at a price 15-20 percent higher than non-FSC acacia.

WHERE OUR FUNDING GOES

- USAID FY 2018 Sustainable Landscapes: \$108.5 million
- 13 bilateral programs: Bangladesh, Cambodia, Colombia, Guatemala, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Malawi, Mexico, Peru, Philippines, Vietnam, and Zambia
- 5 regional programs: Asia, Central Africa, Central America, South America, and West Africa
- Global programs include:
 - SilvaCarbon, a U.S. whole-of-government program to improve forest inventories, monitoring, reporting, and verification
 - SERVIR, a USAID-NASA partnership to help governments and communities use satellite data, local data, maps, and visualization tools to inform decision-making
 - World Resources Institute's Global Forest Watch, a web-based application that monitors global forests in near real time

PHOTO: Forest owners receive PFES payments.
Photo by USAID/VFD.