Regional Forum on Developing and Financing Low Emission Development Strategies for the Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use Sector:
Moving from Promise to Practice

Dusit Thani Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand

July 7-9, 2015

Background

Global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU) sector for 2010 are estimated at 10.2 Gigatonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent. This represents approximately 21% of total global emissions.\(^1\) Asia emitted 44% of global agricultural emissions and 22% of forestry and other land use emissions between 2001 and 2011. If recent trends continue, AFOLU emissions in Asia could increase by 25% by 2030.

Many countries in the region have committed to reducing national GHG emissions including from the AFOLU sector. The Vietnam government has, for example, legislated to reduce GHG emissions from the agriculture and rural development sector by 20% by 2020 (Decision 543/QD-BNN-KHCN, dated 23 March 2011). Other countries in the region have launched similar green growth initiatives with AFOLU inclusion.

In addition to national-level Low Emission Development Strategies\(^2\) (LEDS), there are many subnational investments in the region aimed at developing and implementing sustainable land management strategies. AFOLU LEDS at all levels commonly include elements contributing to climate change mitigation and activities aimed at maintaining or building resilience to the impacts of climate change.

While high-level policy provides the foundation for designing and implementing AFOLU LEDS, capacity and knowledge are limited while land management is complex and administrative and monitoring requirements are high. Institutional divisions also continue to run deep in the AFOLU sector with forestry and agricultural mitigation strategies often poorly harmonized. Increasing population pressures and food demands combined with a degrading land base, economic and access inequity and changing climate patterns further raise the complexity of the task.

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1 Tubiello et al (2014), Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use Emissions by Sources and Removals by Sinks, FAO. Available at: http://www.fao.org/3/a-i3671e.pdf
2 A Low Emission Development Strategy (LEDS) is a “strategic framework that articulates concrete actions, policies, programs and implementation plans to advance economic growth, improve environmental management, and meet development objectives. This framework provides a foundation for achieving long term, measurable greenhouse gas emission reductions as compared to a business-as-usual development pathway.” See LEDS Global Partnership: http://en.openei.org/wiki/Stage_1:_Organizing_the_LEDS_Process
While AFOLU LEDS promise a great deal, additional financing is likely to be necessary for their development and implementation. In this respect there are prospects for domestic and international public sources to provide support, and private financing may also be available where profits are foreseen as a result of implementing low emissions measures.

For different recipients, activities, institutional settings and stages of maturity of an initiative, different types of financing are likely to be appropriate. Internationally sourced payments for emissions reduction are one option; however, risks related to weak land tenure and enforcement and the lack of GHG accounting and investment frameworks currently present challenges. As such, alternative forms of financing that consider non-carbon assets and benefits are increasingly being considered.

To accelerate adoption of AFOLU LEDS principles and tools and to build momentum for LEDS and associated initiatives in the AFOLU sector, efforts are needed to close the financing gap by creating enabling environments and matching activities with financing sources and types.

Despite the challenges, there is a growing body of knowledge from projects, pilots and research efforts across Asia that actively inform land use planning processes and offer experience and lessons learned to finance and expand AFOLU LEDS and assist countries in meeting their emission reduction targets.

**Objectives**

This workshop aims to bring together a diverse group of stakeholders to discuss the role of AFOLU LEDS in sustainable rural development and how to transition from a promising start to sustainably financed large-scale LEDS that contribute to national emission reduction targets.

The specific objectives of the workshop are to:

- Document achievements and lesson learnt from a critical examination of existing AFOLU LEDS efforts from across the Asia Pacific region;
- Investigate ways to bridge the financing gap between financier’s interest in low emission investments and needs for financial support at the field level; and
- Identify best practices and core principles in developing successful AFOLU LEDS.

**Participants**

Approximately 100-120 participants are expected from Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam. Participants will include:

- National and sub-national government representatives from policy, planning, finance and technical departments and agencies;
- Civil society and NGO representatives;
- Leading thinkers and practitioners from development agencies; and
- Private sector representatives.

**Outputs**

The following outputs are expected:

- A short synthesis paper that documents field experiences and achievements in low emission land use planning and consideration of ‘best practices’;
- A short strategy paper responding to issues and challenges identified during the workshop in moving low emission land use planning toward full scale implementation; and
- Strengthened informal networks and transfer of experiences and lessons learnt.
**DAY 1 – Planning and Implementation (Tuesday 7 July)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Presenters/Leaders</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>08:30-9:00</td>
<td>Registration</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00-9:15</td>
<td>Opening remarks - Aurelia Micko, Deputy Director, Regional Environment Office, USAID Regional Development Mission For Asia</td>
<td>Workshop Objectives - Brian Bean, Chief of Party, USAID Lowering Emissions in Asia’s Forests</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:15-9:35</td>
<td>Setting the context: Global emissions from the agriculture and forest sectors: Status and Trends</td>
<td>Dr. Indu Murthy, Centre for Sustainable Technologies</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:35-9:55</td>
<td>Finance for sustainable development at the landscape level</td>
<td>Dr. Steven Lawry, CIFOR</td>
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<td>9:55-10:15</td>
<td>National policies and commitments to achieve emission reductions in the AFOLU sector</td>
<td>Dr. Natcha Tulyasuwan, USAID LEAD</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:15-10:30</td>
<td>Coffee/tea</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30-10:50</td>
<td>What has been learnt? USAID’s Investment in Sustainable Landscapes – What has been learnt?</td>
<td>Jim Barber, USFS &amp; USAID LEAF</td>
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<td>10:50-11:10</td>
<td>The World Agroforestry Centre’s commitment to low emission land use planning – What has been learnt?</td>
<td>Suyanto, World Agroforestry Centre</td>
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<td>11:10-11:30</td>
<td>Low Emission Development for rural development – What has been learnt?</td>
<td>Dr. Claudia Stickler, Earth Innovative Institute</td>
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<td>11:30-12:00</td>
<td>Panel Discussion: What are the core building blocks of an AFOLU Low Emission Development Strategy?</td>
<td>Panellists: Morning presenters</td>
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<td>12:00-13:00</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<td>13:00-15:00</td>
<td>What is needed? Parallel Session: (three 20 minutes presentations followed by 1 hour discussion)</td>
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<td>15:00-15:30</td>
<td>Coffee/tea</td>
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<td>15:30-16:00</td>
<td>What is considered best practice?</td>
<td>Group reporting and feedback</td>
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<td>16:00-17:00</td>
<td>Country Group Work: What are the priority AFOLU LEDS planning and implementation needs in your country?</td>
<td>Moderator: Peter Stephen, USAID LEAF</td>
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<td>18:00</td>
<td>Welcome Dinner</td>
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**Technical Data Needs**
1. Lam Dong case study, Pham Thanh Nam, USAID LEAF
2. SERVIR, Dr. Peter Cutter
3. ADB EOC, Nguyen Hanh Quyen

*Group discussion*: What data is needed for AFOLU LEDS and what are the constraints, opportunities and solutions?
*Moderator*: Jim Barber, USFS

**Policy and Institutional Needs**
1. Indonesian case study, Neville Kemp, USAID IFACS
2. IGES, Dr. Puja Sawhney
3. World Agroforestry Centre, Suyanto

*Group Discussion*: What constitutes an enabling environment and what are the constraints, opportunities and solutions?
*Moderator*: Ken Andrasko, Winrock International

**Stakeholder Engagements Needs**
1. USAID LEAF Madang, Roy Banka
2. CCAFS, Dr. Julie Nash
3. RECOFTC, David Gritten

*Group Discussion*: What are the stakeholder engagement needs and what are the constraints, opportunities and solutions?
*Moderator*: Regan Suzuki, RECOFTC
### DAY 2 – Financing (Wednesday 8 July)

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Speaker/Institution</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09:00-9:20</td>
<td><strong>Introduction to financing for AFOLU LEDS</strong></td>
<td>Dr. Jeremy Broadhead, USAID LEAF</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:20-9:40</td>
<td><strong>International Climate Change Financing for Land Use: Beyond a Paris Agreement</strong></td>
<td>Ken Andrasko, Winrock International</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:40-10:00</td>
<td><strong>Private Financing for Land Use in Southeast Asia</strong></td>
<td>Susan Roxas, WWF</td>
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<td>10:00-10:30</td>
<td><strong>Coffee/tea</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30-12:00</td>
<td><strong>Parallel Sessions: Innovative financing for AFOLU LEDS</strong></td>
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**Low Emissions Business Models**
- Lam Dong, Vietnam case study, Dr. Tran Dai Nghia, IPSARD
- Mangroves and Markets project, Vietnam, Ho Kim Cuong, IUCN
- Private sector engagement in REDD+, Brian Williams, Wildlife Works

**Group discussion:** Can profits be increased and emissions reduced simultaneously?  
**Moderator:** Brian Bean, USAID LEAF

**Voluntary Sustainability Initiatives and emissions reduction**
- The Potential of Voluntary Sustainability Initiatives to Reduce Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation, Thuy Phung, USAID LEAF
- The REDD+ Energy and Agriculture Programme (REAP), Richard McNally, SNV
- RSPO Emissions Working Group, Faizal Parish, GEC

**Group discussion:** Can VSIs contribute to emissions reduction?  
**Moderator:** Jeremy Broadhead, USAID LEAF

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12:00-13:00</td>
<td><strong>Lunch</strong></td>
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<td>13:00-13:30</td>
<td><strong>Outcomes of parallel sessions presented</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>13:30-15:00</td>
<td><strong>Addressing the financing gap: Constraints, opportunities and solutions – who needs to do what?</strong></td>
<td>Working groups</td>
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**Subnational level**  
**National level**  
**International level**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15:00-15:30</td>
<td><strong>Coffee/Tea</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>15:30-17:00</td>
<td><strong>Presentations from working groups and discussion of the roles of private and public financing in AFOLU LEDS</strong></td>
<td>Ken Andrasko, Winrock International</td>
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### DAY 3 – Bringing it together (Thursday 9 July)

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Speaker/Institution</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00-9:20</td>
<td><strong>Planning and financing: Constraints, opportunities and solutions</strong></td>
<td>Dr. Steven Lawry, CIFOR</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:20-10:00</td>
<td><strong>Panel Discussion: Matching planning needs with financing availability</strong></td>
<td>Panel of selected presenters</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00-10:30</td>
<td><strong>Coffee/tea</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30-11:30</td>
<td><strong>Country Group Work:</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Actions to achieve national goals</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:30-12:20</td>
<td><strong>Feedback from country groups</strong></td>
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<td>12:20-12:30</td>
<td><strong>Concluding remarks</strong></td>
<td>TBA</td>
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<td>12:30-13:30</td>
<td><strong>Lunch and Close</strong></td>
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