



# OVERVIEW: Social and Environmental Soundness Issues in REDD+

## Session 1

Evan Notman  
USAID Global Climate Change

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## KEY ISSUES FOR THE WEEK

- REDD+ Social & Environmental Soundness (SES)
  - Key concepts and principles
  - Importance in REDD+ programming
  - Building on decades of NRM experience
- Social & environmental safeguards, standards, and impact assessment
- Potential REDD+ environmental and social benefits and costs
- Stakeholder engagement in REDD+
- USAID support to REDD+ Social and Environmental Soundness



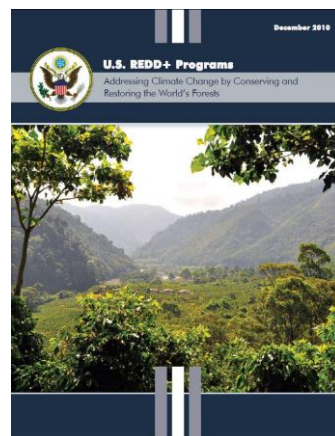
### Evolution from RED to REDD to REDD+ to ...???

- RED (Montreal 2005)
  - REDD (Bali 2007)
  - REDD+ (Poznan 2008)
- RED: Reducing emissions from deforestation
- REDD: Reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation
- REDD+: Reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation “plus,” to include the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in reducing emissions
- *What comes next...???*

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3

- USG REDD+ Strategy (2010):
  - *“USAID is beginning a new program to contribute to greater social and environmental soundness in REDD+ planning and implementation and to provide leadership on this theme among REDD+ donors.”*
- Strategy lists “Social and Environmental Aspects of REDD+” as a policy priority



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4

**USAID Climate Change and Development Strategy  
(January 2012)**

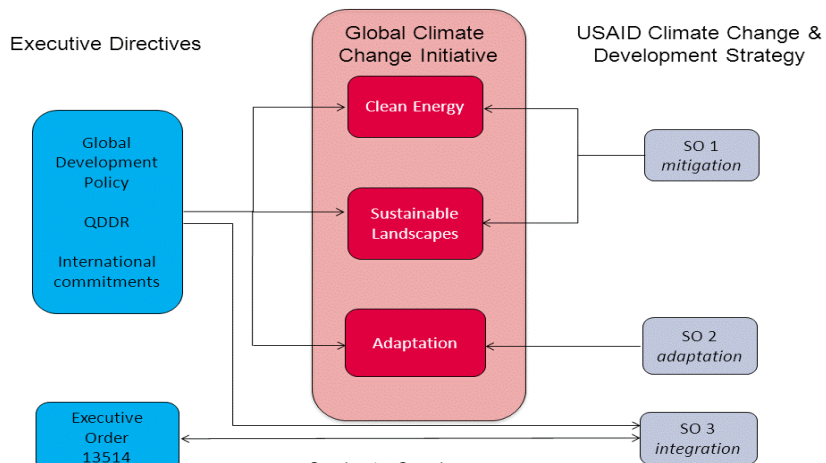
**Strategic Goal:** to enable **countries to accelerate their transition to climate resilient, low emissions development** to promote sustainable economic growth.

**Strategic Objectives:**

1. Accelerate the transition to low emission development through investments in **clean energy** and sustainable landscapes for climate change **mitigation**;
2. Increase resilience of people, places, and livelihoods through investments in climate change **adaptation**; and
3. Strengthen development outcomes by **integrating climate change** in USAID programming, learning, policy dialogues, and operations.

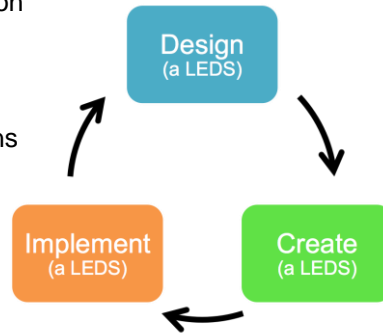
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**Alignment with Administration priorities**



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- National Development Planning
  - Integrating forest sector into broader processes for long-term, climate-resilient development
  - Identifying policy options that address drivers of emissions from land use through sectoral integration
- LEDS supports countries to:
  - Understand emissions profile
  - Identify & analyze mitigation options
  - Recognize gaps in information
- USG: EC-LEDs Program
  - Organizing framework for support
  - Inter-agency coordinated efforts
  - Facilitates integrated approach



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7

### Low Emission Development Strategies – 6-step process

- National development goals and objectives
- National GHG inventory and economic data
- Long-term BAU economic and emissions pathway
- Alternative pathway of low emission scenarios (sector-specific and economy-wide)
- Portfolio of prioritized actions (e.g., address deforestation drivers)
- Implementing and financing plans linked to national budgets

### REDD+ is part of economy-wide LEDs efforts

- Address drivers of emissions from deforestation/degradation
- Reduce pressures on forest conversion for agriculture
- Improve efficiency of biomass energy use

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8

- USAID has a Global Climate Change (GCC) initiative, which supports work in 3 areas:
  1. Clean Energy
  2. Adaptation
  3. Sustainable Landscapes (SL), i.e., mitigation or REDD+, which has so far focused on forest landscapes
- Many USAID programs on climate change and forestry:
  - Forest Carbon, Markets and Communities (FCMC)  
Lowering Emissions in Asia's Forests (LEAF)
  - Other global or regional programs, such as LEAD, Silvacarbon
  - Sustainable landscapes programs of USAID regional missions and USAID country missions

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9



- FCMC works in 4 areas: SES, FCM, MRV, and LEDS
- Specific to SES, the FCMC Program aims to:
  1. contribute to international REDD+ architecture; and
  2. strengthen social and environmental elements for country-level REDD+ readiness and implementation.
- FCMC SES activities help USAID meet ambitious SES goal in USG REDD+ Strategy
- FCMC is a global strategic program, in Washington, DC, but also supports work on regional and national levels

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Social and Environmental Soundness Issues in REDD+

10



- LEAF objectives are to:
  1. Replicate and scale-up innovation through regional platforms and partnerships,
  2. Establish policy and market incentives for GHG reductions,
  3. Build and institutionalize technical capacity for economic valuation of forest ecosystem services and monitoring changes in forest carbon stocks, and
  4. Demonstrate innovation in sustainable land management
- LEAF is a regional program, working closely with the USAID Regional Development Mission for Asia (RDMA)



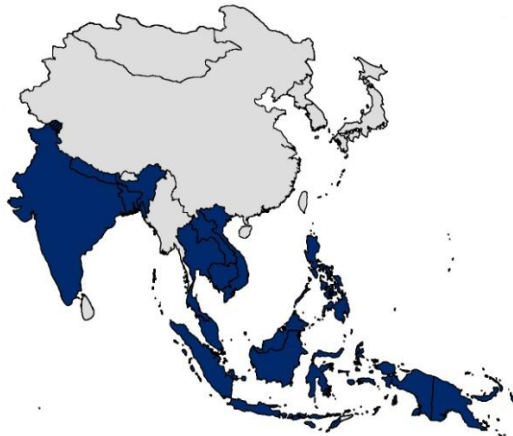
**Core Countries (light blue):** Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea

**Replication countries (dark blue):** India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Indonesia, Philippines

Countries in Red represented at this workshop

**LEAD complements  
the EC-LEDs initiative, by:**

- working in 11 countries to build capacity in LEDS, GhG inventories, and carbon market development
- Facilitating regional cooperation and knowledge-sharing, replicating best practices, promoting LEDS, and encouraging public-private-partnerships



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Social and Environmental Soundness Issues in REDD+

13

- **Social and environmental soundness:** feasibility and compatibility of development with local cultural, socio-economic, and environmental conditions (*as defined in USAID's Automotive Directives System 202*)
- **SES approach:** policies, tools, and best practices to ensure that SES is achieved in development
- **Key elements** of SES include:
  1. Safeguards and safeguard information systems;
  2. Standards;
  3. Impact assessments;
  4. Benefits and costs; and
  5. Stakeholder engagement, rights and benefit-sharing.

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Social and Environmental Soundness Issues in REDD+

14

- In international REDD+ discussions, SES often refers to:
  - “social and environmental safeguards” or
  - “social and environmental standards,” as in the REDD+ Social and Environmental Standards (REDD+ SES) initiative
- In general, USAID uses SES to refer to:
  - “social and environmental soundness”
- NOTE: these three ideas differ from one another:
  - Soundness ≠ Safeguards
  - Soundness ≠ Standards
  - Safeguards ≠ Standards

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Social and Environmental Soundness Issues in REDD+

15



- Promotes sustainability of development initiatives
  - Applies through all phases of REDD+
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- Includes social and environmental safeguards, standards, impact assessment, stakeholder participation, human rights, biodiversity
  - Fosters collaboration with other donors and partners

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Social and Environmental Soundness Issues in REDD+

16



Principle	What it means	How it's applied
Do no harm	Avoid, minimize or mitigate negative social & environmental impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid restricting access to traditional lands / livelihoods</li> <li>• Avoid harming the environment</li> </ul>
Do good	Increase positive social and environmental benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase positive social and environmental benefits</li> <li>• Support local economic development</li> </ul>
No regrets	Undertake development activities that will be beneficial irrespective of global negotiations on REDD+ financing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Add value to other development objectives, i.e., foster social equity</li> <li>• Better environmental management through better governance, economic development</li> </ul>

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Social and Environmental Soundness Issues in REDD+

17

- **Safeguards:** measures to protect against, or minimize, social and environmental damage or harm.



- **Standards:** measures that assess performance in comparison with agreed criteria



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Social and Environmental Soundness Issues in REDD+

18

- Building capacity for effective stakeholder engagement and good governance
  - Rights to land, trees, and carbon
  - Multiple benefits and costs
  - Social and environmental impact assessment
  - Cost and benefit sharing, including distribution of any carbon finance payments
  - Livelihoods
  - Ecosystem services and biodiversity conservation
- What are other SES issues?

