

USAID's Global Climate Change Program

Addressing the causes and effects of climate change has been a key focus of USAID's development assistance for over a decade. USAID has funded environmental programs that have reduced greenhouse gas emissions while promoting energy efficiency, forest protection, biodiversity conservation, and other development goals. This "multiple benefits" approach to climate change helps developing and transition countries achieve economic development without sacrificing environmental protection. To help countries address domestic and international climate change priorities, USAID's Global Climate Change Program is active in more than 40 countries and, since 2001, has dedicated over a billion U.S. dollars to promote:

- Clean energy technology
- Sustainable land use and forestry
- Adaptation to climate change
- Climate science for decision-making



USAID is working in partnership with fishery production and marketing groups in Thailand to assess livelihood strategies for adaptation to climate change.

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Energy demand in the Asia and Near East (ANE) region is rising steadily, a cause for concern due to the region's high pollution rates and reliance on imported fossil fuels. Nearly 80 percent of the world's endangered species and two-thirds of the world's coral reefs are found in ANE countries, making it one of the world's most biodiverse regions on earth. Demands on natural resources, including water; and environmental systems are intensifying due to population growth, poverty, governance issues, and corruption.

USAID's Global Climate Change Program is working with key countries to promote clean energy, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and deforestation, and increase the resilience of vulnerable populations to climatic changes. The Program works bilaterally in countries such as Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Nepal, and the Philippines; and through two regional programs, the South Asia Regional Initiative for Energy (SARI/Energy) and the Regional Development Mission/Asia (RDM/A).

Clean Energy Technology

New technologies and practices offer the prospect for continued economic growth with reduced greenhouse gas emissions. Recognizing that increased productivity and efficiency are critical to economic growth, USAID supports the commercialization, dissemination, and widespread adoption of environmentally sound technologies. USAID will play an important role in implementing the Asia Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate¹ to create new investment opportunities, build local capacity, and remove barriers to the utilization of cleaner, more efficient technologies. Attracting private investment is essential to popularizing such technologies.

1. The Asia-Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate is an innovative model for public private collaboration aimed at accelerating the development and deployment of clean energy technologies. The U.S. is a founding partner. See: <http://www.asiapacificpartnership.org/>



ECOGOV PROJECT/DEVELOPMENT ALTERNATIVES, INC.

To support the productive development of bare forest lands, local government units in the Philippines invest in the establishment of nurseries for high value fruit and forest trees.

In India, USAID partnered with the West Bengal Renewable Energy Development Agency to co-fund the first demonstration project of two 30 kW state-of-the-art micro-turbines to operate on bio-gas. This is the first-of-its-kind project in India in which bio-gas (methane) from a dairy is used in micro-turbines to generate electricity. This project will help stimulate the market for micro-turbines as part of the rural distributed generation systems, increase energy access and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Sustainable Land Use and Forestry

Promoting biodiversity conservation, improved forest management, and sustainable agriculture, USAID programs help mitigate climate change by absorbing and storing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. They also help reduce the vulnerability of ecosystems to climate change. Reduced-impact logging of forests minimizes loss of vegetative cover, for instance, which helps stabilize the soil and control erosion during rain and wind storms. Reduced tillage and contour planting by farmers increases soil organic carbon and therefore

enhances soil fertility, which helps increase food security in developing countries. In the Philippines, the Environmental Governance (EcoGov) project is assisting local government units, in close collaboration with forest stakeholders, to complete and implement forest land use plans, which include measures to manage and protect approximately 250,000 hectares of natural forests, expand forest cover through agroforestry and tree planting, and promote public and private investments to further encourage protection and conservation initiatives.

Adaptation to Climate Change

USAID supports activities to help developing countries lessen their vulnerability and adapt to climate variability and change. These activities are intended to build more resilience into economic sectors that may be affected by climatic stresses, including agriculture, water, and key livelihood sectors in coastal areas. In Indonesia, USAID's Coastal Resources Management Project helps coastal communities to sustainably manage fisheries, reefs, and other coastal resources and has leveraged over \$10 million from the Asia Development Bank.

Participating villages and communities develop long-term plans to protect resources, such as ensuring that their coastline is protected from floods and storm damage by healthy stands of mangroves. USAID is also promoting adaptation through partnerships with the World Conservation Union, START (SysTEM for Analysis, Research and Training), and the Mekong River Commission to assess livelihood strategies for adaptation to climate change in Northeast Thailand.

Climate Science for Decision Making

USAID is also involved in U.S. and international climate change research to ensure that science produces information needed for global development challenges and that scientific findings guide development planning. Informed policy decisions

are essential to sustainable natural resource management and economic development, key priorities of USAID. For example, USAID supports long-term research partnerships between U.S. universities, developing country research institutions, U.S. agribusiness, and private voluntary organizations through Collaborative Research Support Programs (CRSPs). CRSPs research issues of agricultural productivity and sustainability, food quality, and natural resource management that benefit both developing countries and the U.S. In South Asia, the Soil Management CRSP supports research on water conservation practices for the rice-wheat system.

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USAID's Amore program supports social and economic development in remote conflict-affected communities in the Philippines through renewable energy-based electrification. (AMORE)

By making affordable high-quality biogasifiers available in rural Nepal, USAID has improved access to energy, and achieved significant health, socio-economic and environmental benefits. (Winrock International, Nepal)

The Transjakarta bus rapid transit system has resulted in shorter commuting times and improved air quality for residents of Jakarta, Indonesia. (Michael Replogle, Institute for Transportation and Development Policy [ITDP])



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 CHANGE PROGRAM:
 ASIA AND THE NEAR EAST