



Low Emission Development Project

Low emission development is an opportunity for a more competitive and productive Guatemala. With consistency and a long term approach, we are opening up markets and facing challenges with social and environmental responsibility.

Herbert Stackmann, General Manager
Guatemalan Exporters Association (AGEXPORT)

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) establishes that, to stabilize concentrations of greenhouse gases (GHG) in the atmosphere, all developing countries should design and implement development strategies with low emissions, focused on influencing and promoting economic growth while reducing emissions and mitigating the negative impacts of climate change.

Guatemala produces relatively little greenhouse gas emissions. The concern is how rapidly emissions are increasing—more than 140% between 1990 and 2005. The latest national inventories show that, for the first time, Guatemala emits more greenhouse gases than it absorbs, making it necessary to take concrete actions toward sustainability.

Through the Enhancing Capacity for Low Emission Development Strategies (EC-LEDS) program, the Government of Guatemala (GOG) and the United States Government (USG) established an alliance to support the design, construction and implementation of a national strategy that lowers GHG emissions.

In Guatemala, the EC-LEDS program is implemented by the U.S. Agency for International Development's Low Emission Development project.

Integrating climate change mitigation into national development plans represents a shift in the country's policy focus. Facilitating collaboration and coordination among the ministries and stakeholders is a main aspect of LEDS technical assistance.



Photo: Edwin Iquique

Low emission development supports productivity and economic competitiveness.

Guatemala's first low emission development strategy involves society as a whole with a focus on gender equity and multiculturalism. It looks for the direct and coordinated participation of all sectors necessary to obtain the desired goals, including government, private sector, academia and civil society groups.

QUICK FACT: *Agriculture (46%) dominates Guatemala's GHG emissions, as the economic activity that involves most of the population, followed by energy (28%), land use (19%), industry (4%) and the waste sector (3%)¹.*

LEDS experts are working closely with Guatemala's Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources to promote and implement the legal framework necessary to achieve its LED goals.

¹National Inventory of Greenhouse Gases, Baseline 2005 (MARN, 2012)

By project end, Guatemala will have in place:

- A policy and institutional framework that enables decision making informed by sound climate science and economic modeling.
- Stakeholder collaboration for low-emission development where businesses, farmers, and civil society recognize the economic value of mitigation practices and adopt them.
- An economy with an established path toward decoupling long-term economic growth from GHG emissions.

Quick Fact: *Low Emission Development supports the triple bottom line—increasing **economic** productivity and competitiveness, while strengthening **civil society** participation and inclusion to create a **climate-friendly**, low carbon route for achieving development objectives.*



Photo: XLima

Integrating LEDs into development

A low emission development strategy is a country-led and country-specific planning process that creates climate-smart transformative development, promoting economic growth while reducing greenhouse gases.

The goal is to improve productivity through a sustainable approach for the use and conservation of natural resources, promote innovation, and advance the development and adoption of technologies that increase efficiency and reduce emissions.

The project's five components support the fundamental elements required to create a long-term strategy built with stakeholder participation:

Establish Reliable Science and Analytics to help improve the current national greenhouse gas inventories, allowing Guatemala to register and monitor GHG emissions across the country's economy with practical and internationally-accepted methods.

Build Institutional Capacity to create and strengthen capacities to identify, design, and prioritize policies and strategies that promote social, economic, and environmental objectives through low emission development.

Develop Participatory Processes and Transparency to construct a low emission development strategy through a dynamic and active participation of different Guatemalan sectors (e.g. civil society, private sector, government, and academia), promoting technologies that improve competitiveness and reduce GHG emissions.

Promote Implementation through Demonstrations to coordinate with agroindustry and small- and large-scale farmers on initiatives focused on low emission development, through financial and technical assistance.

Support Communication and Education as a cross-cutting activity that will help increase awareness in the general public about climate change, mitigation, and low emission development, and will disseminate and promote the benefits of adopting practices and technologies that reduce GHG emissions.

For more information:

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**Low Emission
Development**