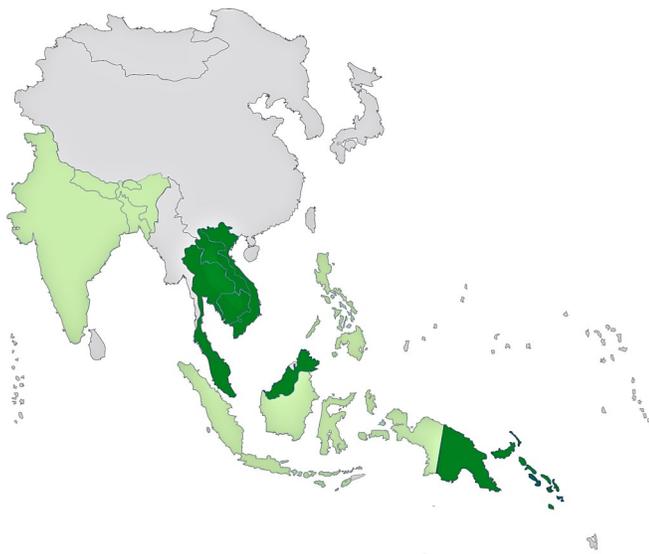




# Lowering Emissions in Asia's Forests Program

**Background:** Forested areas cover approximately 26% of the Asia-Pacific region, providing a wide array of socio-economic and environmental benefits to local, regional, and global communities, including carbon storage, biodiversity, watershed protection, and support for a range of livelihoods. Unfortunately, forests are disappearing rapidly due to agricultural conversion, unsustainable logging, urbanization and other pressures. Deforestation and forest degradation have been identified as major sources of Southeast Asia's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and are significant contributors to global climate change.

**Overview:** The USAID-funded Lowering Emissions in Asia's Forests (LEAF) program strengthens capacities of developing countries in Asia to produce meaningful and sustainable reductions in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the forest-land use sector, thus allowing these countries to benefit from the emerging international REDD+ framework.



**Regional Approach:** LEAF employs a regional approach to meet its goal, working in six countries: Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, Vietnam, Papua New Guinea and Malaysia. LEAF also shares lessons learned and best practices in other Asian countries.

**Objectives:** Specific activities are designed to meet four primary objectives:

- Replicating and scaling up innovation through regional platforms and partnerships;
- Improving policies and establishing market incentives for GHG reductions;
- Building and institutionalizing technical capacity for economic valuation of forest ecosystem services and monitoring changes in forest carbon stocks; and
- Demonstrating sustainable land management innovation.



LEAF is implemented by:





**LEAF aims to achieve the following results:**

- At least \$5 million in domestic and international finances are invested in forest environmental services .
- Replication of best practices, models, and methodologies in at least six countries.
- Capacity of regional platforms and networks strengthened to demonstrate and replicate REDD+ models, methods and tools and to foster information exchange and cooperation.
- National REDD+ policy, planning, and institutional frameworks at national, sub-national, and/or local levels are being implemented to support improved and equitable land management in at least four countries.
- Increased individual and institutional capacity.
- Increased gender equality, inclusion and leadership within organizations implementing REDD+ activities.
- At least three million tons per year of GHG emissions reduced or avoided.
- At least one million hectares of forest lands under improved management.
- Improved livelihoods of local communities.



Contact the LEAF team with questions or for updates:

+66 (0) 2 631 1259      leaf\_info@leafasia.org

[www.leafasia.org](http://www.leafasia.org)

