

The Africa Low Emissions Development Strategies

AFRICA-LEDS PROJECT





Overview

With adoption of the COP21 Paris agreement, the European Commission in partnership with UNEP, the Africa LEDS Partnership (AfLP), the LEDS Global Partnership (LEDS GP), MAPS Africa, and other partners are collaborating with country stakeholders, from government, private sector, academia, Resident UN agencies and other development partners to ensure effective implementation of the agreement in a manner that simultaneously unlocks socio economic opportunities and fulfills climate objectives.

Africa, a region highly vulnerable to climate change, stands to benefit significantly from implementation of the COP21 agreement in a transformational manner that targets actions at catalytic sectors that will also advance critical Sustainable Development Goals. To this end, the Africa LEDS project is set for implementation in 8 countries, with lessons learnt being shared to catalyze replication regionally and across the continent.

Among crucial provisions of the COP21 agreement that ensure alignment with country economic priorities is Article 3 on INDCs. This project will focus on implementing INDCs in a way to achieve simultaneous climate obligations and economic opportunities.

The Africa LEDS project will build on LEDS progress within the partner countries of Cameroon, Cote D'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana, Kenya, Morocco, Mozambique, and Zambia and strengthen existing in-country analytical capabilities to support implementation of impactful actions.

Africa's industrial emissions are negligible. Consequently, a majority of the continents INDCs are land based, prioritizing emissions reductions from land degradation through enhancing sinks and on bridging the energy gap by leveraging the continents vast clean energy sources and available technologies. Additional areas covered include

waste-to energy recovery, reducing future emissions from transport among key areas crucial to unlock low-emissions economic development opportunities in Africa. This project will therefore focus on policy and ground actions targeted at ensuring INDC implementation simultaneously unlocks socio-economic opportunities and while meeting climate obligations. To this end, actions towards unlocking the continents potential for sustainable agro-industrialization powered by clean energy, minimizing both emission sources and enhancing sinks while also creating jobs and contributing to the economy will be a major focus. Among areas covered will be on

- » land based, where interventions will be in the forestry sector through enhancing of sinks and in agriculture through implementation of approaches that minimize sources such as conservation agriculture approaches such as zero till and agro-forestry to prevent soil carbon release and also enhance sinks and sequestration respectively.
- » energy, where the approach will be to enhance agro-based industrialization by enhancing linkage of clean energy - especially decentralized off-grid and mini-grid clean energy systems to agriculture production areas.
- » transport where focus will be on policy and planning interventions to minimize transit distance related emissions e.g. between source and demand markets as agro-industries take root. A possible policy intervention could be for instance, locating processing industries near farming areas. Focus will also be on minimizing transport related urban emissions e.g. through implementation of mass-transit urban systems among others
- » waste where focus will be on actualizing optimal waste-to-energy conversion technologies, to simultaneously minimize degradation and bridge the large energy divide with over 60% without electricity in Africa.



→ Objectives

The overall objective of the project is to assist African countries in developing local knowledge and expertise to formulate, establish necessary implementation capacity and implement concrete LEDS policies and plans for low emission, climate-resilient, and resource efficient socio-economic development consistent with implementation of their respective INDCs.

Specific objectives include to:

- » Collaborate with African LEDS leaders in defining, building support, enhancing knowledge and capacity and launching implementation at policy and ground level, of pathways for low emission, climate-resilient socio-economic development consistent with implementation of INDCs;
- » Strengthen networking and peer-to-peer exchange to support rigorous LEDS analysis and modeling and catalyze LEDS policies and ground actions consistent with INDC implementation across African countries;
- » Develop an evidence base on the economic, social, and environmental implications of low emission development in a southern context, and ensure political leaders and stakeholders own this knowledge to support development and implementation of LEDS policies and ground actions consistent with INDCs and satisfying both socio-economic priorities and environmental & climate objectives.



→ Project Components and Implementation

The project will be implemented under two components, with the aim of replicating success and sharing lessons across the continent.

Component 1, LEDS planning and implementation support: Under component 1, support will be provided at the strategic, policy planning level, with demonstrations done to validate policies and plans. The aim will be to identify and bridge policy gaps, capacity building through training, technical assistance, and minor demonstration projects to support planning, design and implementation of LEDS consistent with respective country INDCs. The support will be targeted at individual country needs and priorities as identified in the INDCs and may be economy wide and/or sector specific. This component seeks to support actualization of INDCs and integration and mainstreaming of LEDS priorities with national development plans, strategies and policies.

Component 2, LEDS modelling support: Under component 2, support will be provided at the tactical and operational level to enhance LEDS analytical and modeling capabilities. This component compliments component 1 through technology to inform and refine optimal long-term LEDS policy and planning options in implementation of INDCs. It will involve capacity building through training and technical assistance, and technology transfer to support analysis of LEDS options. Select models will be adapted and utilized to inform critical INDC implementation policy decisions and evaluate their socio-economic and environmental impacts in medium to long term, to ensure INDC implementation optimally responds to both socio-economic priorities and climate action obligations.

→ Implementation

Activities in these two components will be rolled-out concurrently.

The implementation strategy is premised on a country driven approach where entry into countries is through the Ministry of Environment, as the anchor helping to align project with the strategic vision of the country as well as its development processes frameworks. From the Environment Ministry as hub, the project will reach out to other policy level stakeholders in Ministries of Agriculture, Energy, Industry, forestry, infrastructure, stakeholders in academia, private sector, resident UN agencies, NGOs, CSOs engaged with aspects of LEDS planning and implementation and modelling covered by this project. To facilitate these cross-cutting partnerships, the [UNEP-Ecosystems Based Adaptation for Food Security Assembly \(EBAFOSA\)](#) policy-action framework will be a priority convening framework initiative in the country. These will build country teams which will take the lead in implementation of activities in the country.

The country team will be supported by a technical team composed of Africa LEDS Partnership, the LEDS Global Partnership and its partners. This will be responsible for cross-cutting technical backstopping to country teams to implement project. UNEP Regional Office for Africa will be responsible for project coordination and management.





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