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USAID perspective on climate change adaptation in the Albertine Rift

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Climate change is one of the century's greatest challenges

Climate change is not just an environmental problem, but a human problem with direct implications for hunger, poverty, conflict, water scarcity, infrastructure integrity, sanitation, disease, and survival.

Climate change creates vulnerabilities for all countries and is likely to pose an additional challenge to sustainable development.



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USAID sees climate change and development as inextricably linked.

To respond to the threat that global climate change poses, USAID investments are working to

- **spur reductions in global greenhouse gas emissions;**
- **promote climate change adaptation in vulnerable countries and communities, and to**
- **Mitigate emissions through carbon sequestration enhancement**



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USAID's climate change funding is divided into three pillars:

Adaptation: Helping communities and countries build resilience to climate change impacts

Clean Energy: Supporting low emission economic growth

Sustainable Landscapes: Conserving forests, reducing deforestation and manage lands to reduce emissions



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Adaptation

USAID's adaptation programs seek to build resilience to climate change in the most vulnerable countries.

Linked efforts that involve all development sectors, including agriculture and agricultural research, natural resources management, health, energy and infrastructure, and communications and decision support tools, such as early warning systems and other climate services.

Supporting information platforms and decision-making tools, and building capacity to apply climate information to enable sound planning for climate resilience.



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Adaptation

The SERVIR and FEWS NET programs are two examples of USAID's work to provide access to timely information for climate change adaptation.



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Sustainable Landscapes

- **USAID's funding for sustainable landscapes can be integrated into biodiversity and agriculture programs**
- **Dedicated “Sustainable Landscapes” funding supports REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation)**
- **USAID also support country-led Low Emission Development Strategies (LEDS)**



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Sustainable Landscapes

- **Carbon can be sequestered (i.e. stored) in plants and soil. Forests, wetlands, grasslands, and agricultural systems store a significant portion of global carbon stocks. These can either be “sinks” or “sources” of carbon emissions.**
- **Sustainable management of landscapes is essential to reducing global atmospheric levels of greenhouse gases.**



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Sustainable Landscapes

- **Forests are of particular importance because they provide valuable natural resources for local people, are home to much of the world's biological diversity, and play a key role in carbon sequestration.**
- **Deforestation is both a local problem and a global problem because deforestation releases stored carbon dioxide back into the atmosphere (estimated at 14-20% of annual global greenhouse gas emissions).**
- **USAID has a long history of supporting sustainable forestry with climate change benefits. One example is the CARPE program in Central Africa**



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Central African Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE)

Long-term USAID initiative to address deforestation and biodiversity loss in the Congo Basin of Central Africa.

CARPE operates in nine countries

- **Cameroon,**
- **Central African Republic,**
- **Equatorial Guinea,**
- **Gabon,**
- **Rep and Sao Tome and Principe,**
- **Republic of Congo,**
- **Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Burundi,**



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Sustainable Landscapes

Maintaining the region's carbon "sink" potential is a key objective of USAID's climate change program. CARPE's work helps address this key objective.

The CARPE Forest Landscape Management Program aims to create and execute on the ground land use management plans coupled with a satellite imagery monitoring system, supported by full stakeholder participation and good governance tools.

CARPE identifies ways to limit deforestation and retain the forest as a significant global carbon sink.

USAID is now working on a new CARPE Strategic Plan to 2020



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Rwanda mission activities

- **Biodiversity / Nyungwe National Park**
 - **Carbon sequestration**
 - **PES and carbon marketing framework**
- **Agriculture**
 - **Water harvesting and hillside irrigation**
 - **Post-harvest, handling and storage**
 - **Early warning (FEWS NET)**



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THANK YOU!!!