



AFRICA & MIDDLE EAST CLIMATE CHANGE PROGRAM

U.S. FOREST SERVICE INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The U.S. Forest Service works in nearly 20 countries across Africa and the Middle East on climate change issues.

Partners include national and local governments, civil society, local community groups, academia, and the private sector.

U.S. Forest Service personnel provide technical assistance and capacity building on issues such as macro- and micro-level land use planning, low-emission development strategies, forest and watershed monitoring, forest and wetland carbon measurement, mapping and remote sensing, reforestation, and others.

KATHLEEN SHERIDAN

Africa and Middle East Program
Coordinator
USDA Forest Service
1 Thomas Circle, NW, Suite 400.
Washington, DC, 20005
202-644-4580 (tel)
202-644-2475 (cel)
kathleenasheridan@fs.fed.us

BACKGROUND

Climate change presents tremendous challenges for natural resource management. Emissions from the “agriculture, forestry, and other land use” sector account for almost a quarter of annual global greenhouse gas emissions, making it the largest-emitting economic sector after energy. Tremendous opportunities exist to reduce emissions and mitigate climate change by slowing deforestation rates, curbing forest degradation, increasing carbon storage, and using forests as an alternative and sustainable energy source.

With more than 100 years of experience managing national forests and grasslands, the U.S. Forest Service has extensive expertise to contribute to the issue of climate change in the global context. The Agency has a mandate to balance the resource utilization needs of the American people while sustaining the nation’s forest and grasslands for water, biodiversity, recreational experiences, and other uses. The U.S. Forest Service strategy for addressing climate change in the U.S. is research-based and focuses on helping forests adapt to changes in climate by restoring the resilience of ecosystems, managing forests to increase the amount of carbon capture and storage, using forest products to reduce and replace fossil fuel energy, maintaining a climate research program, and reducing the Agency’s carbon footprint. The Agency is well positioned to relate to other nations’ land management and climate-related challenges.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The U.S. Forest Service addresses climate change across Africa and the Middle East in partnership with other U.S. agencies, host-country governments, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector through policy engagement and technical cooperation. Depending on the country context, U.S. Forest Service activities range from national-level policy advice, to capacity building of governmental and non-governmental institutions, to sponsorship of promising scientists and academics, to community-level outreach on forest conservation and land management issues. U.S. Forest Service personnel work with partners on a variety of topics including macro- and micro-level land use planning, low-emission development strategies, forest and watershed monitoring, carbon measurement, mapping and remote sensing, reforestation, and others.

REGIONAL SUMMARIES

Congo Basin

The U.S. Forest Service is a partner of the Central Africa Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE), a program funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). CARPE is a long-term initiative designed to address issues of climate change, deforestation, and sustainable forest management in the Congo





Basin. CARPE works to improve management of forested lands in the basin and to strengthen the capacities of governments and people of the region to manage these resources at the local, national, and regional levels. Under the umbrella of CARPE, the U.S. Forest Service also implements complementary technical assistance programs funded by the U.S. Department of State and USAID that focus on capacity building in the areas of climate change, reduced emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+), and forest carbon measurement. U.S. Forest Service programming under CARPE, which began in 1997, focuses on the **Democratic Republic of Congo**, the **Republic of Congo**, **Cameroon**, and **Gabon**, and also includes a regional component which is supported by the Central African regional forestry commission.

West Africa

In the Upper Guinean Tropical Forest, the U.S. Forest Service implements the Sustainable and Thriving Environments for West African Regional Development (STEWARD) program, an integrated forest conservation and sustainable livelihoods effort supported by USAID. STEWARD's strategic objectives are to address trans-boundary threats to biodiversity, target the adverse effects of climate change, capitalize on regional opportunities to spread best practices, and harmonize policies in priority zones of **Sierra Leone**, **Guinea**, **Ivory Coast**, and **Liberia**.

In nearby **Ghana**, the U.S. Forest Service works in the six coastal districts of the Western Region on the USAID-funded **Coastal Sustainable Landscapes Program**. The program works with local communities, the Ghana Forestry Commission, and a host of other local and national partners to pursue low emissions development pathways through improved management of coastal forests, landscapes, and wetlands. An integrated approach links community-level assistance in forest management and alternative livelihoods with national policy and research activities.

East Africa

With support from USAID/Kenya, the U.S. Forest Service implements the **Kenya** Water Tower Climate Change Resilience and Adaptation Program, an effort that focuses on enhancing the resilience and adaptive capacity of

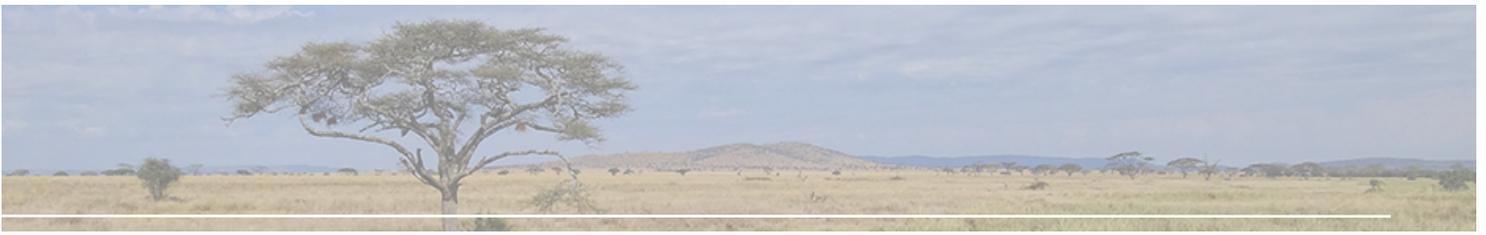
Kenya's Water Towers (watersheds) – critical to the country's water and energy supplies – to climate change. Focusing on three of the five Water Towers – Mau Forest Complex, Cherangani Hills, and Mt. Elgon – the program will assess climate change vulnerability and economic value of the ecosystems and will develop a watershed monitoring approach. The three-year program is being implemented in collaboration with USAID/Kenya; Kenya's Ministry of Environment, Water, and Natural Resources; and other in-country partners.

The U.S. Forest Service implements the **East Africa Regional Mangrove Carbon Project** that is part of the Sustainable Wetlands Adaptation and Mitigation Program (SWAMP). SWAMP is a global collaboration between USAID, U.S. Forest Service, and the Center for International Forestry, aimed at providing policy makers with credible scientific information about the role of tropical wetlands in climate change. In **Mozambique**, the U.S. Forest Service worked with the Universidade de Eduardo Mondlane and the World Wide Fund for Nature to build in-country capacity to measure carbon pools in mangrove stands of the Zambezi River Delta. In **Tanzania**, the U.S. Forest Service supports a Tanzanian team of government and university professionals to establish a mangrove research forest in the Rufiji Delta.

In **Ethiopia**, the U.S. Forest Service supports USAID/Ethiopia and the Ethiopian Ministry of Environment and Forestry in national-level climate change policy and planning. A resident U.S. Forest Service advisor supports the Government of Ethiopia's implementation of its Climate Resilient Green Economy (CRGE) initiative by building capacity, providing technical analysis, developing relevant strategies, and assisting with inter-ministerial coordination.

Southern Africa

In **Malawi**, the U.S. Forest Service works with USAID/Malawi and the Government of Malawi on climate change adaptation and mitigation through the Malawi REDD+ Readiness Program. With full-time advisors embedded at the Malawi Department of Forestry, the USFS facilitated the development of a five-year REDD+ action plan and provided technical assistance in related areas including geographic information systems, land use/land cover mapping, national forest inventory, and carbon assessment.



In **Zambia**, the U.S. Forest Service, in support of the Climate Fellows Program with the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, supports Zambia's Environmental Management Agency with a full-time Climate Fellow to provide technical assistance and capacity building for REDD+ Readiness in Zambia. This technical advisor specifically focuses on reliable and accurate carbon reporting as relates to forestry and land use emissions and on identifying short-term technical assistance, training, and analysis needs on REDD+ issues from all sectors.

Middle East

In **Jordan** and **Morocco**, the U.S. Forest Service works with longstanding in-country governmental and non-governmental partners to provide technical support to local communities on community rangeland and watershed rehabilitation projects. The objectives are to revitalize micro-climates, soil health, water infiltration, native seed regeneration, and aesthetic value and to support local communities in changing land use practices and earning new revenue streams. Such innovations are key to adapting to future climate conditions.

In **Lebanon**, as part of a large-scale, multi-year reforestation program, the U.S. Forest Service works with local communities to understand potential effects of climate change and develop community-level adaptation plans. The U.S. Forest Service team has also used its popular, publicly-accessible web-based mapping platform to assemble and publicize data on likely effects of climate change on Lebanon's forests and native tree species.
