Leaders in Climate Change Mitigation

Winrock’s Ecosystem Services Unit (ECO-WI) is a leader in implementing innovative climate change solutions in the agriculture, forestry, and other land use sector (AFOLU). For more than 15 years ECO-WI has developed the tools, analyses, and capacity to assist our partners to participate in the climate change AFOLU sector. Including:

- National Scale REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation) Assistance
- AFOLU Standard and Methodology Development
- Regional Carbon and Emission Factor Analyses and Tools
- Sub-national REDD+ Project Technical Assistance

World Renowned Expertise in AFOLU

ECO-WI provides its expert scientific guidance to the leading voices in the regulatory and voluntary carbon markets. Our staff serve or have served on:

- The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) as a convening lead-author.
- The Technical Advisory Panel for the World Bank’s Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF).
- American Carbon Registry® (ACR) advisory committee.
- The Voluntary Carbon Standard (VCS) AFOLU Steering Committee.
- The Development Committees for the forest carbon standards for the Climate Action Reserve (CAR).

ECO-WI’s Work

National and Sub-National Scale REDD+ Assistance

ECO-WI has assisted Ghana, Kenya, and Cambodia in developing their REDD Readiness Preparation Proposals (R-PP) for the FCPF, and provided REDD+ strategy-development assistance to Guyana, Republic of Congo, Vietnam, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Malaysia, and Papua New Guinea by:

- Customizing assistance on REDD+ national and sub-national baseline and monitoring plan design and implementation.
- Customizing trainings for the creation of reference emission scenarios and measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) systems at the national or sub-national level.
- Creating guidance documents, manuals and tools for REDD+ national scale strategies, sub-national project development and MRV implementation.

AFOLU Standard and Methodology Development

ECO-WI has been at the forefront of standard and methodology development in the carbon market in the AFOLU sector. We have:

- Authored IPCC guidelines informing the methodologies for forestry under the CDM.
- Served as official expert reviewers for forestry methodologies under all standards.
- Authored or contributed to the development of multiple CDM, VCS, and ACR approved AR and AFOLU methodologies.
Carbon Project Technical Assistance

- ECO-WI provides technical assistance in the design and implementation of GHG emission reduction sub-national projects for the regulatory and voluntary market.
- We have assisted Afforestation, REDD, IFM, avoided peat emissions, and grazing land projects worldwide.
- We focus on training our partners to a point where our expertise is no longer needed.
- Assistance includes targeted trainings of project managers in project design and execution, customized field measurement trainings, and customized manuals and calculation tools.
- Collectively, we have trained more than 500 local professionals worldwide.

Regional Carbon Analyses and Tools

ECO-WI identifies the climate change impacts of land use change and potential mitigation opportunities using GIS-based models and other spatial analysis tools. Our activities include:

- Estimating future GHG emissions and other environmental benefits
- Spatial projections of deforestation and degradation baselines
- Estimating potential carbon supply under different economic scenarios
- Assessing the economic potential of GHG emissions and removals (sequestration) at regional, national, state or municipality scales
- Assessing the potential GHG mitigation impact and economic costs of specific policies and programs
- Creating tools to track GHG emissions and removals from projects and investments
- Developing planning tools to allow the maximization of sequestration and minimization of emissions while considering economic opportunity costs

The ECO-WI Team is comprised of eleven scientists with advanced degrees in ecology, forestry, environmental science, GIS, and remote sensing. The team is led by Dr. Sandra Brown whose 30+ year career has been instrumental in defining the role of forests in the global carbon cycle. Additional key staff include: Dr. Tim RH Pearson, Dr. Sarah M Walker, Dr. Nancy L Harris, and Dr. Cheney Shreve.

Winrock International’s additional focus areas include empowerment and civic engagement, enterprise and agriculture, clean energy, and forestry and natural resource management.