



## PRESS RELEASE

### **US Experts to Discuss Assistance to Papua New Guinea for Low Carbon Development**

**Bangkok, Thailand, January 25, 2012** – A team of experts from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the Department of Agriculture’s Forest Service (USDA/FS), and two U.S. companies will visit Papua New Guinea (PNG) January 25-27 to discuss low-carbon strategies and how they can help accelerate economic growth.

PNG has the third largest tract of intact tropical forest in the world. Its valuable forests, however, face a number of threats with the majority of greenhouse gas emissions stemming from unsustainable land use change and forestry. At the same time, PNG’s growing energy and industrial sectors present many opportunities for low-carbon investment.

The delegation will identify regional programs that can best help Papua New Guinea achieve a genuinely sustainable pathway to development. One such program is LEAD – USAID’s new Low Emissions Asian Development program.

LEAD assists Asian countries to improve living standards and reduce emissions of the greenhouse gases that cause climate change. Low-carbon, climate-resilient development is recognized as one of the keys to achieving these goals.

While in Port Moresby, the delegation of USAID and LEAD technical staff will meet with PNG officials, United Nations and other donor agencies, private-sector firms, research institutes, and non-governmental organizations.

Staff from another regional USAID program – LEAF (Lowering Emissions in Asia’s Forests) – will meet with PNG officials at the same time. The LEAF program works with selected Asian countries to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from improper forestry and land use, primarily through better forestry management.

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#### **About USAID**

The United States Agency for International Development has been the principal U.S. agency extending foreign assistance since 1961. In Asia, USAID programs address many problems that cross national boundaries, such as human and wildlife trafficking, HIV/AIDS and infectious diseases, global climate change, natural resources conservation, food security, and trade. For more information, visit [www.usaid.gov](http://www.usaid.gov).

#### **About USAID’s Low Emissions Asian Development (LEAD) Program**

The LEAD program is a five-year regional program that assists Asian governments, businesses, and institutions develop the proper framework for sustained low-emissions development. This program is designed to build capacity and develop low emission development strategies (LEDS), greenhouse

gas (GHG) inventories and accounting, and carbon market readiness in up to 11 countries— Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam.

The program complements the U.S. government's global initiative for Enhancing Capacity for Low Emission Development Strategies (EC-LEDS), and draws on specialized expertise from the U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service.