

reduced emissions from deforestation and degradation

the challenges and solutions



URS

Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD) offers a major opportunity to the global community for a reduction in CO₂ emissions. It also offers a major opportunity for targeted development for forest dependent economies and communities. However significant challenges exist in securing rigorous and sustainable forest carbon projects.

Deforestation is commonly an outcome following a raft of policy and operational actions, many of which are continually degrading forest carbon stocks. Forest degradation can occur through uncontrolled or poorly planned and implemented timber harvesting. Addressing degradation, while complex, is a key to securing REDD.

Implementation of REDD will require revised policy frameworks, technical forest carbon assessments, definition of incentives at both forest and national levels, and a suite of policy and technical interventions to secure changes in forest management.

The key risk to successful REDD is credibility. Credibility will be threatened where social effects are not adequately defined nor mitigated with appropriate actions. Credibility will be threatened when unsound baselines are considered and monitoring programmes are poorly designed.

URS is uniquely placed to guide parties through the technical, social and economic complexities of REDD projects in locations such as Indonesia and the Melanesian countries. We are able to provide forestry and wood products specialists along with our social investment experts, with both groups having extensive experience in working in southeast Asian environments.

The URS Forestry Carbon Team has been the trusted advisor to a range of government and private sector clients throughout the Asia-Pacific over 20 years.

Our team has experience and detailed understanding of:

- Implementation and design of forestry offset and emission avoidance projects for greenhouse gas abatement, including implementation according to IPCC, VCS and CCB (incorporating REDD+) standards and guidelines
- Forest carbon monitoring and measurement procedures
- International and domestic climate change policy and emissions trading schemes
- The incorporation of carbon into forest valuations and due diligence
- Costs, benefits and risks associated with forest carbon projects
- Defining social risks to potential projects, particularly REDD projects, and defining realistic mitigating actions to manage the risks
- Supply, demand and prices for forest carbon in the global marketplace
- Greenhouse benefits of timber as a low-emission building product or energy source

The URS Community Relations and Social Investment Team is an industry leader in provision of social management and stakeholder engagement services.

As a fully-integrated professional service provider, our team offers:

- Proven track record in applying best practice standards to the specific needs of local operations, host governments and communities
- Over 30 years' experience of working in international development for international agencies such as the World Bank, IFC and Asian Development Bank
- Independence in verifying compliance against leading practice international social and environmental policy frameworks including the Equator Principles and IFC performance standards
- Established global networks with community-based organisations, non-government organisations, donor agencies, universities and private consultants
- Demonstrated commitment to health and safety and quality assurance



International Development

The URS International Development group is a leading Australian-based, design, funds management and program delivery partner. We have delivered over 240 development assistance programs across 19 countries, including across Asia Pacific.

URS Corporation is one of the largest multi-disciplinary consulting firms worldwide, with environmental, forestry, engineering and international development experience. We work with a range of donors including AusAID, USAID, MCC, DFID, World Bank and ADB, and private sector organisations such as industrial, financial and resources companies.

We apply international best practices to local project conditions. We develop responses appropriate to the specific project requirements and review and monitoring processes to support effective project implementation.

URS consults to forest carbon policy makers, project developers, carbon buyers, financiers, emitters (industrial and resources companies) and development agencies throughout southeast Asia and the Pacific.

Relevant forested land project experience

Indonesia

- Review of forest carbon standards and access to voluntary carbon markets, incorporating the development of a harmonised carbon standard, for the Kalimantan Forests and Climate Partnership (KFCP), 2009 – 2010
- Review of regulatory approvals and permits relating to environmental requirements for the KFCP, incorporating an assessment against World Bank Safeguards, 2010
- REDD project review for peat carbon and swamp forests, Sumatra, PT Indah Kiat, 2008
- Technical Advisor, Government Initiative on Forest and Climate Change (GIFC), AusAID, 2007 – 2008
- Social Impact Assessment of Resource Development projects, in Western, Central and Eastern Indonesia, for various resource companies (e.g. BHP Billiton, BP, Chevron, Oz Minerals (formerly Oxiana) and Freeport), 2006 – current
- Estimation of Forest Carbon due to Avoided Degradation, West Papua, Carbon Conservation, 2007/08
- Policy and Technical Analysis for Management of Forests and Climate Change, World Bank, 2007
- Carbon Risk Management Assessment for Oil & Gas Project, Private Sector, 2007

Mekong

- Vietnam – Quang Ngai Rural Development Program, AusAID, 2002 – 2008
- Vietnam – Cao Bang Bac Can Rural Development Project, EU, 1999 – 2004
- Cambodia – Forest Concession Management Project, World Bank, 1997 – 2000

Pacific

- Solomon Islands – Forest Management Projects (Phases I and II), AusAID, 1999 – 2009
- Samoa – Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries and Meteorology Institutional Strengthening Project, AusAID, 2003 – 2004
- PNG – Social Impact Assessment of Resource Development projects, mainland and island provinces, for various resource companies (e.g. Porgera Joint Venture, Lihir Gold, and PNG Sustainable Development Program), 2006 – current
- PNG – Forestry Human Resource Development Project, AusAID, 1995 – 2001

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