



The Benefits Assessment Working Group

Understanding the impacts of low-emission development strategies (LEDS) on broader development goals is of growing interest around the world. Among others, these goals include reducing poverty, enhancing economic growth, creating jobs, improving health and local environmental quality, expanding energy and water access, and facilitating gender equity. The LEDS Global Partnership (LEDS GP) Benefits Assessment Working Group aims to assist institutions in identifying, evaluating and building awareness of the impacts – positive or negative – of LEDS measures on a country's social, economic and environmental development goals.

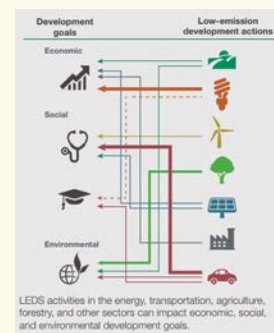
The Energy Research Centre of the Netherlands (ECN), the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), the Joint Implementation Network (JIN) and the United States Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) lead the activities of this Working Group.

The Development Impacts Assessment approach

The Benefits Assessment Working Group aims to support informed decision-making by considering how policies and programs that are intended to meet a goal may impact other development priorities. Development goals – such as economic growth, job creation and raising standards of living – are the top priority for governments around the world. The Working Group helps to identify and understand how a government program or policy not only addresses this goal (or goals), but also the related objectives in the areas of public health, energy access, air quality and others.

For example, a policy to support economic growth through added capacity for electricity generation offers technology choices. The 'Development Impacts Assessment' approach helps decision-makers understand the consequences of choosing renewable energy technologies. The approach goes beyond capital and operating costs and includes impacts on jobs, public health, energy security and other criteria, which speak to a broader set of goals.

The approach is valuable because it encourages the involvement of new partners that may not otherwise be interested in climate protection. It can also increase access to climate finance – including private finance.



The Benefits Assessment Working Group in action

Peer learning and knowledge sharing

The Working Group facilitates peer-to-peer sharing and lessons learned from development impacts in analysts' countries through webinars, forums and workshops. These activities are coordinated with related efforts by the United States Government's Enhancing Capacity for Low Emission Development Strategies (EC-LEDS) and other initiatives.



Toolkit

The Working Group has developed a toolkit for assessing the development impacts of LEDS activities. This provides qualitative and quantitative tools, as well as cross-sectoral and sector-specific tools, data and methods for evaluating the impacts of low-emission development options on a country's social, economic and environmental development goals. The web-based, user-friendly toolkit equips decision-makers to explore policy options and build consensus with stakeholders to achieve low-emission development and support national development objectives. You can find the toolkit at: www.ledsgp.org

A further resource for understanding and exploring the development impacts of LEDS approaches is outlined in the NREL paper 'Broadening the appeal of marginal abatement cost curves: Capturing both carbon mitigation and development benefits of clean energy technologies', found at: www.ledsgp.org/resource/marginal-abatement-cost-curves-carbon-mitigation-and-development-benefits-of-clean-energy/

DIA visual tool offers unique benefits

Development-focused LEDS processes in Ghana, Kenya, Montenegro and Zambia have already benefitted from the use of the Development Impacts Assessment (DIA) visual tool. Led by the DIA Working Group, these pilot efforts have demonstrated how the tool complements and provides leverage for other LEDS planning methods, such as the Technology Needs Assessment process or the Marginal Abatement Cost Curve tool. In addition, it has been particularly effective in capturing the results of qualitative impact assessment methods.

In the future, lessons from these pilot projects and feedback from stakeholders will lead to efforts to improve the tool and develop further means for communicating effectively with different audiences.

Advisory services

The Working Group provides timely, high-quality, no-fee technical assistance on assessing the development impacts of LEDS through the LEDS GP Remote Expert Assistance on LEDS (REAL) service. Experts from around the world are available to provide objective advice, conduct reviews and brief assessments and collect data. The Working Group is also able to recommend sources of longer-term support for individuals and organisations, collect data and recommend sources of longer-term support for individuals and organizations who are analyzing the impacts of LEDS measures on development priorities. To contact the REAL service, please visit: www.ledsgp.org/

Join us

Membership of the Benefits Assessment Working Group is open to all interested parties. To join, contact Dr Krishnan at: sskrishnan9@gmail.com or Inga Zachow at: inga.zachow@giz.de

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