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Description of document: United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Inspector General (OIG) response to a Congressional request for "agency"-specific information on climate change, 2013

Requested date: 03-August-2013

Released date: 26-August-2013

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USAID FOIA Office  
Bureau for Management  
Office of Management Services  
Information and Records Division  
Room 2.07C – RRB  
Washington, DC 20523-2701  
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August 26, 2013

RE: FOIA Request No. F-00312-13

This is our final response to your August 3, 2013 Freedom of Information Act request to the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Office of the Inspector General, which was subsequently transferred to this office for processing and direct response to you. Your request was received in this office on August 13, 2013. You requested a “copy of documents and/or other response provided to Bicameral Task Force on Climate Change in response to their February 25, 2013 letter request to USAID signed by Co-Chairs Henry A. Waxman and Sheldon Whitehouse, Edward J. Markey and Benjamin L. Cardin.”

A search of the Office of the Inspector General for documents responsive to your request produced a total of twenty-nine (29) pages. After careful review, we have determined that the documents (29) are fully releasable.

Provisions of the FOIA allow us to recover part of the cost of complying with your request. In this instance, there is no charge.

As this is our last communication, we are closing this case.

Sincerely,

Alecia S. Sillah  
Team Lead, Government Information Specialist  
Bureau for Management  
Office of Management Services  
Information and Records Division

Enclosure: Responsive Documents (29 pages)

**Umana, John (IG/IO)**

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**From:** Gopal, Kiren <Kiren.Gopal@mail.house.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 07, 2013 4:00 PM  
**To:** Schwinn, Wilbert (IG/IO)  
**Cc:** Schmidt, Andrew (IG/IO); Brown, Justin (IG/IO); Lokos, Nathan (IG/A/AIG); Swanson, Katherine (IG/A/PA)  
**Subject:** RE: Climate Change Task Force conference call next week

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hi Bill,

Thanks for your email. I will be sure to include USAID OIG once we set up a call.

Kiren

\*\*\*\*\*

Kiren Gopal  
Counsel, Democratic Staff  
Committee on Energy & Commerce  
202.225.1072

**From:** Schwinn, Wilbert (IG/IO) [<mailto:wschwinn@usaid.gov>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 07, 2013 3:25 PM  
**To:** Gopal, Kiren  
**Cc:** Schmidt, Andrew (IG/IO); Schwinn, Wilbert (IG/IO); Brown, Justin (Guyana); Lokos, Nathan (IG/A/PPA); Swanson, Katherine (IG/A/PA)  
**Subject:** Climate Change Task Force conference call next week

Hello Kiren,

Thank you very much for you and your colleagues taking time to answer questions today concerning the Congressional request for information from our office concerning the Bicameral Task Force on Climate Change. We greatly appreciated the guidance.

I understand that there is going to be a smaller conference call next week concerning the Climate Change Task Force request to further clarify the questions. Could we please be included in this conference call?

Thank you very much for your assistance with this.

Sincerely,

Bill

Bill Schwinn  
USAID/OIG Immediate Office  
[wschwinn@usaid.gov](mailto:wschwinn@usaid.gov)

202-712-4129

**Umana, John (IG/IO)**

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**From:** Schmidt, Andrew (IG/IO)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 13, 2013 8:32 AM  
**To:** 'Gopal, Kiren'  
**Cc:** Schwinn, Wilbert (IG/IO)  
**Subject:** Climate Change Task Force conference call

Good morning Kiren,

Sorry for the delayed response. Given the scope and specific nature of the EPA and TVA IGs' work on climate change, please schedule a call with just them at this point.

We've reached out to agency staff on our end, who have shared a lot with us, and we'll follow up should any questions arise as we review the materials and draft a submission for you by the 29th.

Thank you,  
Andrew

Andrew Schmidt  
Immediate Office  
Office of Inspector General  
US Agency for International Development

Tel: (202) 712 4065

**Umana, John (IG/IO)**

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**From:** Schmidt, Andrew (IG/IO)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 01, 2013 3:18 PM  
**To:** 'Gopal, Kiren (Kiren.Gopal@mail.house.gov)'; 'Emily\_Enderle@whitehouse.senate.gov'  
**Cc:** Schwinn, Wilbert (IG/IO)  
**Subject:** Bi-Cameral Task Force on Climate Change Request

Good afternoon Kiren and Emily,

I wanted to notify you that USAID OIG plans to submit its response to your February 25, 2013 request this week. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

In the meantime, as we prepare our final response, how does the Task Force prefer to receive these submission (e.g. an email to each of you only, hard copies mailed to the co-chairs' offices)?

Andrew

Andrew Schmidt  
Immediate Office  
Office of Inspector General  
U.S. Agency for International Development

Tel: (202) 712 4065

**Umana, John (IG/IO)**

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**From:** Schmidt, Andrew (IG/IO)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 23, 2013 12:48 PM  
**To:** 'Gopal, Kiren (Kiren.Gopal@mail.house.gov)'; 'Emily\_Enderle@whitehouse.senate.gov'  
**Cc:** Schwinn, Wilbert (IG/IO)  
**Subject:** USAID OIG Response to Climate Change Request  
**Attachments:** 042213\_Ltr to Whitehouse\_Climate Change Response.pdf; 042213\_Ltr to Cardin\_Climate Change Response.pdf; 042213\_Ltr to Markey\_Climate Change Response.pdf; 042213\_Ltr to Waxman\_Climate Change Response.pdf

Good afternoon Kiren and Emily,

I am attaching the USAID OIG's response to the Task Force's request. We had hoped to get it to you sooner and I'm sorry for the delay.

The attachments include separate letters for each Co-Chair, however the attached assessment is the same for each.

Thank you,

Andrew

Andrew Schmidt  
Immediate Office  
Office of Inspector General  
U.S. Agency for International Development

Tel: (202) 712 4065



*Office of Inspector General*

APR 23 2013

Sheldon Whitehouse  
Co-Chair  
Bicameral Task Force on Climate Change  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Oversight, Committee on Environment and Public Works  
Committee on Environment and Public Works  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

We have completed an assessment in response to your February 25, 2013 request for information on requirements related to the U.S. Agency for International Development's (USAID) policies to address climate change. The assessment is enclosed with this letter and includes a review of USAID's policies and plans prepared and executed in response to Executive Order 13514 and the *Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007* (Pub. L. 110-140). In the assessment, we also identify additional requirements and policies related to climate change that concern USAID's overseas operations and assistance activities.

If you or members of your staff have any questions regarding this letter, or would like additional information about our work, you may contact my office at (202) 712-1150.

Sincerely,

Michael G. Carroll  
Deputy Inspector General

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Henry A. Waxman, Co-Chair, Bicameral Task Force on Climate Change, Ranking Member, Committee on Energy & Commerce, U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Edward J. Markey, Co-Chair, Bicameral Task Force on Climate Change and Ranking Member, Committee on Natural Resources, U.S. House of Representatives



**The Honorable Benjamin L. Cardin, Co-Chair, Bicameral Task Force on Climate Change,  
and Chairman, Subcommittee on Water and Wildlife, Committee on Environment and  
Public Works, U.S. Senate**

**Rajiv Shah, Administrator, U.S. Agency for International Development**

## **Existing Requirements to Address Climate Change and U.S. Agency for International Development Efforts to Meet Requirements**

### **PART I of the Request – Requirements to Address Climate Change**

#### **(1) Existing requirements to address climate change:**

***Executive Order 13514: Federal Leadership in Economic Environmental, Energy, and Economic Performance*** – Executive Order 13514 sets sustainability goals for Federal agencies and focuses on making improvements in their environmental, energy and economic performance. Key elements include preparing agency sustainability plans, an adaptation policy statement, and a high-level analysis of agency vulnerability to climate change.

***The Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007*** – Title IX, Subtitle A of this act states that the Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) shall support policies and programs in developing countries that promote clean and efficient energy technologies to support the overall purpose of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The act requires that USAID submit to Congress an annual report on the implementation of this section for each of the Fiscal Years (FY) 2008 through 2012.

#### **(2) What USAID is doing to meet the requirements:**

***Executive Order 13514:*** According to USAID, it is meeting key requirements of Executive Order 13514. For example:

**Agency Sustainability Plans:** USAID has produced three Agency Sustainability Plans (ASPs) for FY 2010, FY 2011, and FY 2012 as required by the Executive Order. Key information presented in the ASPs includes:

- Because the General Service Administration (GSA) owns the domestic facilities that USAID occupies, the Agency did not set any targets for greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction for either direct greenhouse gas emissions from sources that are owned or controlled by USAID (Scope 1 emissions) or direct greenhouse gas emissions resulting from the generation of electricity, heat, or steam purchased by USAID (Scope 2 emissions). GSA reports to the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) on GHG emissions from Scope 1 and 2 activities in locations occupied by USAID in accordance with the Executive Order.
- USAID does report on GHG emissions from sources that it does not own or directly control but which are related to agency activities such as vendor supply chains, delivery services, and employee travel and commuting (Scope 3 emissions). For USAID, these activities include official air and ground travel, emissions produced through employee commuting, and wastewater treatment based on the number of Agency employees working in USAID occupied facilities. USAID reported that it has set a target of reducing business air travel emissions by 7 percent by 2013. USAID's current travel database does not capture travel from non-U.S. direct hire employees.

## **Existing Requirements to Address Climate Change and U.S. Agency for International Development Efforts to Meet Requirements**

- According to the ASPs, USAID's efforts to respond to the Executive Order requirements include: promoting the use of video teleconferencing as an alternative to air travel; promoting telework practices and bicycle commuting; drafting a Green Procurement Plan; replacing single-use electronic devices with multi-functional devices to reduce paper and toner use; promoting electronic file sharing systems; replacing fluorescent light tubes with lower wattage models; hiring additional staff to promote sustainable practices; and expand recycling services.

**Adaptation Policy Statement and the High-Level Analysis of Agency Vulnerability to Climate Change:** USAID submitted its Adaptation Policy Statement on June 2, 2011 and the high-level vulnerability analysis on September 30, 2011 in order to meet the requirements in Section 8(i) and Section 16 of the Executive Order.

**ADS 528:** USAID's Automated Directive System (ADS) contains the organization and functions of USAID, along with the policies and procedures that guide the Agency's programs and operations. ADS 528—Energy Management and Planning Program for USAID Buildings—establishes guidance and mechanisms for USAID to reduce energy use in USAID's properties as required by the Executive Order. This guidance was promulgated on May 14, 2012.

**Climate Change Adaptation Plan, June 2012:** As required under the Executive Order, USAID completed a Climate Change Adaptation Plan in June 2012. The adaptation plan addresses the type and degree of climate-related impacts and vulnerabilities across USAID's partner countries with consequences for human health, economic growth, livelihoods, and biodiversity, among others. Climate change could significantly affect key USAID program areas, including agriculture and food security; global health; water, sanitation, and hygiene; malaria; infrastructure; and disaster readiness and humanitarian response. The adaptation plan also includes over 20 country specific climate change vulnerability analyses.

**Executive Order 13514 and Overseas Operations:** According to the Climate Change Adaptation Plan, USAID has almost 9,500 employees, not including contractors. About 70 percent of these employees are stationed overseas. Overseas activities account for the majority of USAID GHG emissions. While the Executive Order 13514 is not mandatory for overseas activities, the FY 2011 ASP indicates USAID plans to account for emissions from USAID activities overseas in the future, stating USAID is "working with other federal agencies that have a large international presence such as the Department of State, the Department of Defense, and the Peace Corps to determine an appropriate GHG accounting methodology for overseas activities." The plan further states that calculating these GHG emissions is challenging due to the various energy sources and efficiencies used through the numerous countries where USAID serves. According to USAID officials, while USAID is collocated with the Department of State in nearly all countries where it serves, USAID has applied some GHG reduction measures to operational activities in some of the few facilities it does operate overseas. Examples cited include:

## **Existing Requirements to Address Climate Change and U.S. Agency for International Development Efforts to Meet Requirements**

- USAID Bolivia conducted an energy audit of its facility in 2008 and calculated GHG emissions from its facility and fleet. Recommendations for retrofitting the facilities with more energy efficient heating and cooling systems, lighting, and kitchen appliances were given that included estimated GHG emissions reductions. The Bolivia Mission is currently implementing some of the recommendations that will lead to reduced GHG emissions and cost savings on energy expenditures at the Mission.
- The Agency is funding the design and construction of an office facility in South Africa. USAID South Africa has completed a 90 percent environmentally sustainable design to the Green Building Council of South Africa for 4 Star Green Star Design certification<sup>1</sup>.

***The Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007:*** USAID prepared two reports in response to Title IX, Subtitle A of the Act. The first report "Fulfilling our Commitment to Clean Energy" covered FY 2008 through FY 2010. The subsequent report covered FY 2011. The FY 2012 report has not yet been submitted.

***Other Requirements and Agency Policy for Overseas Operations and Assistance Activities:*** In accordance with sections 117(c), 118, 119, and 621 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, USAID established 22 CFR 216 to ensure environmental factors and values are considered and integrated in the Agency's decision making and implementation processes in overseas programmatic activities. While 22 CFR 216 requires that USAID mitigate the environmental impact of its programs abroad, it does not currently require consideration of climate change impact. According to the FY 2012 Climate Change Adaptation Plan, during FY 2014-2016 USAID plans to review the core agency environmental procedures under 22 CFR 216 and other federal agency procedures under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to make recommendations as to whether and how required environmental impact assessment procedures should consider climate change in USAID-funded programs and activities. If appropriate, they will develop associated guidance and/or training.

In addition to the requirements detailed above, USAID has also developed the *USAID Climate Change and Development Strategy* for FY 2012 - 2016. According to the strategy, USAID's climate change assistance activities are guided by Administration policy as developed in the President's Global Development Policy, the Quadrennial Diplomacy and Development Review, USAID Forward, and the Presidential Global Climate Change Initiative. The overall goal stated in the strategy is to enable USAID-assisted countries to accelerate their transition to climate-resilient, low emission sustainable economic development. USAID will prioritize assistance based on several factors, including existing major GHG emitters, partners most able and ready to

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<sup>1</sup> The Green Building Council of South Africa is analogous to the United States Green Building Council who issue Leadership in Environmental and Environmental Design (LEED) certification for qualifying buildings in the United States.

## **Existing Requirements to Address Climate Change and U.S. Agency for International Development Efforts to Meet Requirements**

demonstrate leadership in clean energy development, countries with globally important forest landscapes, and countries most vulnerable to climate change impacts (least developed countries, small island developing states, and glacier-dependent countries).

### **(3) OIG assessment of USAID actions to meet the requirements:**

USAID has reported that it is meeting most of the requirements set forth in Executive Order 13514. However, the status of the various actions proposed in the Agency Sustainability Plans should be more clearly reported on year to year so progress can be verified. Based on OIG inquiries, some activities that were included in the ASPs were not completed as planned (for instance, the FY 2012 APS stated a bicycle commuting benefit policy would be released in 2012, but it is currently still in development).

In addition, USAID's reporting indicates that officials set only one emissions reduction target: achieving by 2013, a 7 percent reduction in emissions generated from business air travel from the baseline established in 2008. It appears that USAID may not be on track to meet this target. While the ASPs reported that emissions from air travel decreased in FY 2010 and FY 2011, subsequent information provided by USAID staff indicates that USAID air travel emissions may have increased in these years relative to the 2008 baseline. Upon inquiry, USAID staff said the 2008 baseline was later adjusted by GSA and that this may account for the discrepancy.<sup>2</sup>

Executive Order 13514 states "This order shall apply to an agency with respect to the activities, personnel, resources, and facilities of the agency that are located within the United States. The head of an agency may provide that this order shall apply in whole or in part with respect to the activities, personnel, resources, and facilities of the agency that are not located within the United States, if the head of the agency determines that such application is in the interest of the United States." While the majority of USAID operations and activities are carried out overseas, USAID is not tracking emissions abroad. Nevertheless, USAID is reportedly making some efforts to determine how this can be done.

We are engaging USAID officials regarding the issues raised above.

### **Part II of the request - Authorities USAID has to reduce emissions of heat trapping pollution**

USAID does not have authority to reduce emissions of heat trapping pollution.

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<sup>2</sup> USAID reports GSA adjusted baselines across the board for all federal agencies, and that USAID has been working with GSA to resolve the inconsistency.



*Office of Inspector General*

APR 23 2013

Benjamin L. Cardin  
Co-Chair  
Bicameral Task Force on Climate Change  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Water and Wildlife  
Committee on Environment and Public Works  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

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Sincerely,

Michael G. Carroll  
Deputy Inspector General

Enclosure

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*Office of Inspector General*

APR 23 2013

Edward J. Markey  
Co-Chair  
Bicameral Task Force on Climate Change  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Markey:

We have completed an assessment in response to your February 25, 2013 request for information on requirements related to the U.S. Agency for International Development's (USAID) policies to address climate change. The assessment is enclosed with this letter and includes a review of USAID's policies and plans prepared and executed in response to Executive Order 13514 and the *Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007* (Pub. L. 110-140). In the assessment, we also identify additional requirements and policies related to climate change that concern USAID's overseas operations and assistance activities.

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Michael G. Carroll  
Deputy Inspector General

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**The Honorable Benjamin L. Cardin, Co-Chair, Bicameral Task Force on Climate Change and Chairman, Subcommittee on Water and Wildlife, Committee on Environment and Public Works, U.S. Senate**

**Rajiv Shah, Administrator, U.S. Agency for International Development**

**Existing Requirements to Address Climate Change and U.S. Agency for  
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**PART I of the Request – Requirements to Address Climate Change**

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**(2) What USAID is doing to meet the requirements:**

***Executive Order 13514:*** According to USAID, it is meeting key requirements of Executive Order 13514. For example:

**Agency Sustainability Plans:** USAID has produced three Agency Sustainability Plans (ASPs) for FY 2010, FY 2011, and FY 2012 as required by the Executive Order. Key information presented in the ASPs includes:

- Because the General Service Administration (GSA) owns the domestic facilities that USAID occupies, the Agency did not set any targets for greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction for either direct greenhouse gas emissions from sources that are owned or controlled by USAID (Scope 1 emissions) or direct greenhouse gas emissions resulting from the generation of electricity, heat, or steam purchased by USAID (Scope 2 emissions). GSA reports to the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) on GHG emissions from Scope 1 and 2 activities in locations occupied by USAID in accordance with the Executive Order.
- USAID does report on GHG emissions from sources that it does not own or directly control but which are related to agency activities such as vendor supply chains, delivery services, and employee travel and commuting (Scope 3 emissions). For USAID, these activities include official air and ground travel, emissions produced through employee commuting, and wastewater treatment based on the number of Agency employees working in USAID occupied facilities. USAID reported that it has set a target of reducing business air travel emissions by 7 percent by 2013. USAID's current travel database does not capture travel from non-U.S. direct hire employees.

## **Existing Requirements to Address Climate Change and U.S. Agency for International Development Efforts to Meet Requirements**

- According to the ASPs, USAID's efforts to respond to the Executive Order requirements include: promoting the use of video teleconferencing as an alternative to air travel; promoting telework practices and bicycle commuting; drafting a Green Procurement Plan; replacing single-use electronic devices with multi-functional devices to reduce paper and toner use; promoting electronic file sharing systems; replacing fluorescent light tubes with lower wattage models; hiring additional staff to promote sustainable practices; and expand recycling services.

**Adaptation Policy Statement and the High-Level Analysis of Agency Vulnerability to Climate Change:** USAID submitted its Adaptation Policy Statement on June 2, 2011 and the high-level vulnerability analysis on September 30, 2011 in order to meet the requirements in Section 8(i) and Section 16 of the Executive Order.

**ADS 528:** USAID's Automated Directive System (ADS) contains the organization and functions of USAID, along with the policies and procedures that guide the Agency's programs and operations. ADS 528—Energy Management and Planning Program for USAID Buildings—establishes guidance and mechanisms for USAID to reduce energy use in USAID's properties as required by the Executive Order. This guidance was promulgated on May 14, 2012.

**Climate Change Adaptation Plan, June 2012:** As required under the Executive Order, USAID completed a Climate Change Adaptation Plan in June 2012. The adaptation plan addresses the type and degree of climate-related impacts and vulnerabilities across USAID's partner countries with consequences for human health, economic growth, livelihoods, and biodiversity, among others. Climate change could significantly affect key USAID program areas, including agriculture and food security; global health; water, sanitation, and hygiene; malaria; infrastructure; and disaster readiness and humanitarian response. The adaptation plan also includes over 20 country specific climate change vulnerability analyses.

**Executive Order 13514 and Overseas Operations:** According to the Climate Change Adaptation Plan, USAID has almost 9,500 employees, not including contractors. About 70 percent of these employees are stationed overseas. Overseas activities account for the majority of USAID GHG emissions. While the Executive Order 13514 is not mandatory for overseas activities, the FY 2011 ASP indicates USAID plans to account for emissions from USAID activities overseas in the future, stating USAID is "working with other federal agencies that have a large international presence such as the Department of State, the Department of Defense, and the Peace Corps to determine an appropriate GHG accounting methodology for overseas activities." The plan further states that calculating these GHG emissions is challenging due to the various energy sources and efficiencies used through the numerous countries where USAID serves. According to USAID officials, while USAID is collocated with the Department of State in nearly all countries where it serves, USAID has applied some GHG reduction measures to operational activities in some of the few facilities it does operate overseas. Examples cited include:

## **Existing Requirements to Address Climate Change and U.S. Agency for International Development Efforts to Meet Requirements**

- USAID Bolivia conducted an energy audit of its facility in 2008 and calculated GHG emissions from its facility and fleet. Recommendations for retrofitting the facilities with more energy efficient heating and cooling systems, lighting, and kitchen appliances were given that included estimated GHG emissions reductions. The Bolivia Mission is currently implementing some of the recommendations that will lead to reduced GHG emissions and cost savings on energy expenditures at the Mission.
- The Agency is funding the design and construction of an office facility in South Africa. USAID South Africa has completed a 90 percent environmentally sustainable design to the Green Building Council of South Africa for 4 Star Green Star Design certification<sup>1</sup>.

***The Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007:*** USAID prepared two reports in response to Title IX, Subtitle A of the Act. The first report “Fulfilling our Commitment to Clean Energy” covered FY 2008 through FY 2010. The subsequent report covered FY 2011. The FY 2012 report has not yet been submitted.

***Other Requirements and Agency Policy for Overseas Operations and Assistance Activities:*** In accordance with sections 117(c), 118, 119, and 621 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, USAID established 22 CFR 216 to ensure environmental factors and values are considered and integrated in the Agency’s decision making and implementation processes in overseas programmatic activities. While 22 CFR 216 requires that USAID mitigate the environmental impact of its programs abroad, it does not currently require consideration of climate change impact. According to the FY 2012 Climate Change Adaptation Plan, during FY 2014-2016 USAID plans to review the core agency environmental procedures under 22 CFR 216 and other federal agency procedures under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to make recommendations as to whether and how required environmental impact assessment procedures should consider climate change in USAID-funded programs and activities. If appropriate, they will develop associated guidance and/or training.

In addition to the requirements detailed above, USAID has also developed the *USAID Climate Change and Development Strategy* for FY 2012 - 2016. According to the strategy, USAID’s climate change assistance activities are guided by Administration policy as developed in the President’s Global Development Policy, the Quadrennial Diplomacy and Development Review, USAID Forward, and the Presidential Global Climate Change Initiative. The overall goal stated in the strategy is to enable USAID-assisted countries to accelerate their transition to climate-resilient, low emission sustainable economic development. USAID will prioritize assistance based on several factors, including existing major GHG emitters, partners most able and ready to

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## **Existing Requirements to Address Climate Change and U.S. Agency for International Development Efforts to Meet Requirements**

demonstrate leadership in clean energy development, countries with globally important forest landscapes, and countries most vulnerable to climate change impacts (least developed countries, small island developing states, and glacier-dependent countries).

### **(3) OIG assessment of USAID actions to meet the requirements:**

USAID has reported that it is meeting most of the requirements set forth in Executive Order 13514. However, the status of the various actions proposed in the Agency Sustainability Plans should be more clearly reported on year to year so progress can be verified. Based on OIG inquiries, some activities that were included in the ASPs were not completed as planned (for instance, the FY 2012 APS stated a bicycle commuting benefit policy would be released in 2012, but it is currently still in development).

In addition, USAID's reporting indicates that officials set only one emissions reduction target: achieving by 2013, a 7 percent reduction in emissions generated from business air travel from the baseline established in 2008. It appears that USAID may not be on track to meet this target. While the ASPs reported that emissions from air travel decreased in FY 2010 and FY 2011, subsequent information provided by USAID staff indicates that USAID air travel emissions may have increased in these years relative to the 2008 baseline. Upon inquiry, USAID staff said the 2008 baseline was later adjusted by GSA and that this may account for the discrepancy.<sup>2</sup>

Executive Order 13514 states "This order shall apply to an agency with respect to the activities, personnel, resources, and facilities of the agency that are located within the United States. The head of an agency may provide that this order shall apply in whole or in part with respect to the activities, personnel, resources, and facilities of the agency that are not located within the United States, if the head of the agency determines that such application is in the interest of the United States." While the majority of USAID operations and activities are carried out overseas, USAID is not tracking emissions abroad. Nevertheless, USAID is reportedly making some efforts to determine how this can be done.

We are engaging USAID officials regarding the issues raised above.

### **Part II of the request - Authorities USAID has to reduce emissions of heat trapping pollution**

USAID does not have authority to reduce emissions of heat trapping pollution.

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<sup>2</sup> USAID reports GSA adjusted baselines across the board for all federal agencies, and that USAID has been working with GSA to resolve the inconsistency.



*Office of Inspector General*

APR 23 2013

Henry A. Waxman  
Co-Chair  
Bicameral Task Force on Climate Change  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Energy & Commerce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Waxman:

We have completed an assessment in response to your February 25, 2013 request for information on requirements related to the U.S. Agency for International Development's (USAID) policies to address climate change. The assessment is enclosed with this letter and includes a review of USAID's policies and plans prepared and executed in response to Executive Order 13514 and the *Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007* (Pub. L. 110-140). In the assessment, we also identify additional requirements and policies related to climate change that concern USAID's overseas operations and assistance activities.

If you or members of your staff have any questions regarding this letter, or would like additional information about our work, you may contact my office at (202) 712-1150.

Sincerely,

Michael G. Carroll  
Deputy Inspector General

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Edward J. Markey, Co-Chair, Bicameral Task Force on Climate Change and Ranking Member, Committee on Natural Resources, U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse, Co-Chair, Bicameral Task Force on Climate Change and Chairman, Subcommittee on Oversight, Committee on Environment and Public Works, U.S. Senate

**The Honorable Benjamin L. Cardin, Co-Chair, Bicameral Task Force on Climate Change and Chairman, Subcommittee on Water and Wildlife, Committee on Environment and Public Works, U.S. Senate**

**Rajiv Shah, Administrator, U.S. Agency for International Development**

## **Existing Requirements to Address Climate Change and U.S. Agency for International Development Efforts to Meet Requirements**

### **PART I of the Request – Requirements to Address Climate Change**

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