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# QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT JANUARY – MARCH 2024

## INTEGRATED LAND AND RESOURCE GOVERNANCE II (ILRG II) TASK ORDER

April 2024

INTEGRATED LAND AND RESOURCE  
GOVERNANCE II TASK ORDER  
UNDER THE ONE ACQUISITION  
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COR: Karol Boudreaux  
Land and Resource Governance Division  
Contractor Name: Tetra Tech

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by the United States Agency for  
International Development. It was  
prepared by Tetra Tech.

Author: Tetra Tech

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national and regional staff.

All individuals featured in photographs in  
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for their image to be used in ILRG II  
publications.

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# LIST OF ACRONYMS

ADB	Asian Development Bank
CO	Contracting Officer
COP	Chief of Party
COR	Contracting Officer's Representative
CRBs	Community Resources Boards
DNPW	Department of National Parks and Wildlife
ECOM	Ecom Agroindustrial Ltd.
EU	European Union
FSC	Forest Stewardship Council
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GDA	Global Development Alliance
GECCA	Gender Equality and Cocoa Climate Activity
GEEA	Gender Equity and Equality Action
GESI	Gender Equality and Social Inclusion
GEWE	Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment
GLA	Global Land Alliance
GMA	Game Management Area
ID	Inclusive Development
IDIQ	Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity
ILRG II	Integrated Land and Resource Governance II
IP	Indigenous Peoples
IPARD	Indigenous Peoples Alliance for Rights and Development
IWD	International Women's Day
LRG	Land and Resource Governance
LTPR	Land Tenure and Property Rights
MEL	Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning
MLNR	Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources

NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
PSE	Private Sector Engagement
REFS	Resilience, Environment and Food Security
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
TORs	Terms of Reference
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VLUP	Village Land Use Planning
ZCLAS	Zambia Customary Land Administration System

# Introduction

The purpose of the Integrated Land and Resource Governance II (ILRG II) Task Order is to provide support to the Land and Resource Governance (LRG) Division in the Center for Natural Environment in the Bureau of Resilience, Environment and Food Security (REFS) at the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to develop, implement, assess and evaluate interventions that secure land tenure and resource rights and strengthen LRG systems. ILRG II will help identify constraints and barriers to secure land and resource governance to support multiple development objectives, including combating climate change, promoting food security, supporting biodiversity conservation, enabling gender equality, women's empowerment and social inclusion, engaging with the private sector, preventing and mitigating conflict, supporting sustainable urbanization and enabling localization, among others. ILRG II will provide technical assistance services to strengthen and secure the land tenure and resource rights of women, men, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, youth, persons with disabilities, and other marginalized and underrepresented populations in USAID-presence countries. It aims to improve the LRG systems that are responsible for implementing these rights, as well as strengthen the capacity of stakeholders to better advocate for their own rights. It will support rigorous research and analysis to improve understanding of what works and does not work to achieve these outcomes, including the linkages between land and resource governance and other development outcomes. Through this work, USAID seeks to promote development of equitable and resilient societies where land and resource governance rights are respected and utilized to create broad-based growth for all.

To secure the land tenure and resource rights of local people and communities and strengthen LRG systems, ILRG II seeks to achieve the following four objectives:

1. Strengthen enabling environments to promote inclusive legal and policy frameworks for land and resource governance in formal and customary settings;
2. Enhance the capacity of key stakeholders and partners in government, civil society, local communities and the private sector to implement inclusive land and resource governance laws and practices;
3. Build innovative partnerships with the private sector that enable responsible land-based investing to promote resilience; and
4. Support robust monitoring, evaluation, research and learning activities to improve land and resource governance programming.

ILRG II is a five-year contract that was awarded in September 2023. This second quarterly report covers January to March 2024. During this quarter, ILRG II began in-country implementation work on the mid-term evaluation of the Indigenous Peoples Alliance for Rights and Development (IPARD) program in Panama and Honduras and continued to provide technical and capacity strengthening support to key non-governmental and governmental stakeholders in the women's land rights, wildlife, and natural resource space in Zambia, building on relationships established under the ILRG program. Scoping work continued for the Gender Equality and Cocoa Climate Activity (GECCA) to promote women's empowerment and

sustainable agroforestry in Ghana with funding from the Gender Equity and Equality Action (GEEA) Incentive Fund at USAID, as well as the Washington funded Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE) Cocoa activities in Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire. ILRG II developed terms of reference for the Environmental Defenders grant program, and held initial discussions on the Green Cities/Adaptation work stream, which may support peri-urban land use planning in Malawi. ILRG II also supported a number of smaller research tasks.

## ILRG II CURRENT GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS





## 2.0

# Key Accomplishments & Challenges

This period was focused on designing and initiating the priority activities identified during project start-up workshops with USAID and core subcontractors. ILRG II successfully transitioned in a new Chief of Party (COP) and recruited an Operations Specialist. The project's outgoing Chief of Party transitioned to a technical advisory role within the project's core team. A key challenge was the project's delayed consent to subcontract, leading to lower than anticipated expenditures. Key accomplishments during the work period include:

**Zambia:** ILRG II continued to provide technical and capacity strengthening support to government and non-governmental organization (NGO) partners in the land, wildlife, and forestry space using Washington-based funding. On gender, ILRG II facilitated a training on human rights and gender-based violence for 32 wildlife officers in the Kafue landscape and a national level partner meeting in support of the new Stand for Her Land Campaign in Zambia. ILRG II continues to provide training and support for the chiefs in Eastern Province on the use of the Zambia Customary Land Administration System (ZCLAS).

**IPARD:** The IPARD evaluation team implemented the first three phases of the mid-term evaluation of a Global Development Alliance (GDA) that convenes multi-sector partners to secure Indigenous Peoples' (IP) rights, strengthen their capacity and catalyze economic self-development.

**GEWE Cocoa:** Building upon lessons from a previous pilot under ILRG, ILRG II is advancing the expansion of a partnership with cocoa commodity trader Ecom Agroindustrial Corp. (ECOM) into new areas of Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire. ILRG II developed a comprehensive implementation plan, activity budget, and scope of work for subcontracts with ECOM. ILRG II developed the design for the gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) analysis in Côte d'Ivoire, which will further inform interventions.

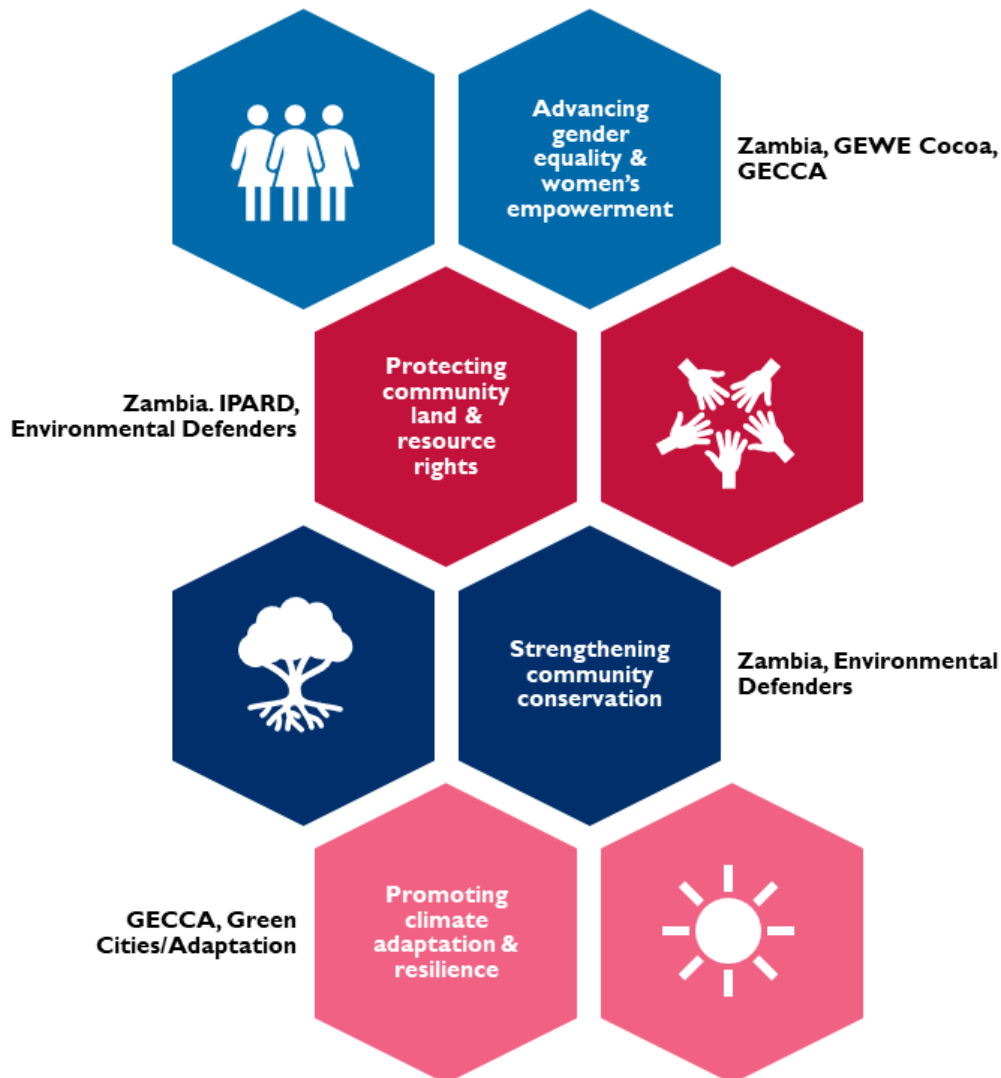
**GECCA:** ILRG II received funding from the USAID GEEA Incentive Fund to support GECCA activities to both advance gender equality and promote sustainable agroforestry in cocoa value chains in Ghana. ILRG II has confirmed in-kind implementation support from ECOM to advance this work, and USAID is exploring third-party private sector funding to support payments for ecosystem services to farmers under the activity.

**Environmental Defenders:** ILRG II developed terms of reference for the Environmental Defenders grant program, which will be incorporated into the final Request for Applications set to be released next quarter.

**Green Cities/Adaptation:** ILRG II and partner Global Land Alliance (GLA) initiated a concept note on a pilot project for Green Cities/Adaptation aimed at supporting climate-resilient urban expansion in Malawi.

**Other Activities:** ILRG II advanced a number of small research pieces this quarter, designed to help USAID expand their knowledge on potential new areas of work, better communicate

about the linkages between land and resource governance and other development priorities, and support Missions to explore their own research priorities. Efforts included a literature review on the productivity and inclusion impacts of cluster farming in Ethiopia, a literature review and draft talking points on the linkages between land tenure and property rights and food security outcomes, review of the draft USAID private sector engagement framework, and background research on how to value community carbon assets to inform the Asian Development Bank guidance note on land acquisitions and land use.



## 3.0

# Project Management

## 3.1 Project Performance

ILRG II plans to use this section of the report to consolidate quarterly feedback from USAID/Washington, USAID Missions, partners and beneficiaries related to project impact, particularly around quality, management effectiveness, compliance, cost-effectiveness and timeliness.

## 3.2 Project Management

ILRG II uses bi-weekly written updates and weekly calls with USAID on overall project management to ensure responsiveness to USAID priorities and adaptive management. These are supplemented by activity-specific coordination calls with USAID activity managers and ILRG II task leads on a weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly basis. ILRG II's lean core management team continues to focus on a streamlined and compliant program management structure.

During this quarter, ILRG II submitted the First Year Work Plan. ILRG II's work plan is influenced by the project's field-based support to Missions. As additional Mission-supported activities may emerge throughout the year, the work plan creates a placeholder for future activities, laying out the USAID-led design and implementation approach the project will pursue. After USAID develops scopes of work and budgets for new activities, ILRG II will develop individual activity work plans to drive implementation, particularly during their first year. ILRG II also submitted the GESI Strategy and the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Plan (MELP) this quarter, both of which will be finalized in the next quarter.

In the second quarter of ILRG II, the project welcomed a new COP while the outgoing COP transitioned to a technical advisory role. ILRG II was also assigned a dedicated Contracting Officer (CO) under the Office of Acquisition and Assistance division that supports the Bureau for Resilience, Environment and Food Security.

## 4.0

# Zambia

### 4.1 Background & Objectives

ILRG II engagement in Zambia builds on the momentum of USAID engagement on customary land tenure issues in the country since 2014, which initially worked with district-level civil society to support chiefs and rural communities in customary land documentation and agroforestry extension. This work evolved into a broader engagement that included advancing inclusive activities related to wildlife and natural resource tenure and the use of customary land documentation for district planning purposes, as well as support for the National Land Policy.

### 4.2 Technical Approach

During this quarter, the ILRG II team continued to advance its USAID Washington-supported work, which included administrative start up, as well as initial meetings with ministries and partners. ILRG II continued to support long-standing partners in Zambia to utilize tools and processes developed under previous activities.

**Administrative Progress:** ILRG II identified a small, cost-effective office in Lusaka and advanced contractual negotiations with its four core staff. ILRG II confirmed its Country Coordinator, who will be oriented to her new position and supported by the ILRG II global team.

**Traditional Leadership and Community Governance Capacity:** ILRG II confirmed the interest of Zambia's traditional leaders in continuing to engage on the Chalimbana Diploma in Traditional Leadership course, including chiefs who are adjacent to protected areas. The chiefs also confirmed their interest in developing courses for their headpersons and advisors on good governance and land allocation.

Chiefs in Eastern Province continued to advocate for the use of customary land documentation and administration tools including ZCLAS. Multiple NGOs around the country consolidated their support for the system and requested a few upgrade capacities (including offline data collection). ILRG II participated in a series of Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources supported dialogues on customary land documentation tools and brought in the participation of longstanding



ILRG II Wildlife Specialist presents on USAID's work in the wildlife sector in Zambia at the Bi-Annual Conservancy Conference in Botswana. Credit: ILRG II.

USAID partners. Chiefs Sandwe, Mkanda and Maguya continued to test their secretariat process and a minimal level of new document requests were registered. There is a demand for continued backstopping and technical support while these chiefs (and others) adopt the tool and advocate for its use with broader chiefdoms.

At the community level, Community Resources Boards (CRBs) continue to receive training on community governance, in part through the materials developed under ILRG. The Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) have partnered with communities in Eastern Kafue to distribute governance tools and support gender inclusive elections. Similar training will occur in the North Luangwa Landscape with the support of Frankfurt Zoological Society next quarter. The DNPW has similarly requested downscaling CRB resources to support the needs of Village Actions Groups.

**Wildlife and Natural Resource Management:** ILRG II continued to support TNC on village land use planning (VLUP) within Nkala Game Management Area (GMA). ILRG II produced village maps and initiated dialogue with local government on using the maps to support decision making. The VLUP process fosters multi-stakeholder dialogues and has the potential to be replicated in northern GMAs around Kafue National Park, and others.

**Gender Equality and Social Inclusion:** ILRG II continued to backstop partners on gender equality and social inclusion both in the wildlife and land sectors. With respect to wildlife, ILRG facilitated a dialogue in Eastern Kafue with National Parks employees on human rights, as well as gender and leadership training with recently elected CRB members. In the land sector, ILRG II built on initial dialogues in November 2023 at the African Land Policy Conference with the international Stand for Her Land Campaign to launch a new campaign in Zambia. This quarter, ILRG II facilitated dialogue between representatives from the global camping and national women's land rights advocates, many of whom were trained under the Women's Leadership and Empowerment course under ILRG. While excitement around the campaign was high, it is not clear that there are new or additional resources that will be mobilized with the launch of a national campaign in Zambia, and Stand for Her Land is not yet convinced of the value of adopting ILRG's tested tools, which poses an obstacle for further collaboration. Discussions will continue next quarter on a way forward.

**National Level Civil Society Coordination:** ILRG II continues to monitor activity in both the natural resource management and land sectors related to civil society advocacy.



Women wildlife police officers and rangers from the Department of National Parks and Wildlife attended ILRG II supported empowerment and leadership training with The Nature Conservancy. Credit: TNC.



ILRG II participated in the National Executive Committee for the Zambia National Community Resources Board Association, but is awaiting guidance from USAID on further national level engagement in both the land and natural resource management sectors.

**National Level Government Coordination:** ILRG II has maintained its relationships with the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources (MLNR), Ministry of Tourism through the DNPW, Ministry of Green Economy and Environment through the Forestry Department, and Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development through both the Physical Planning Department and the House of Chiefs. ILRG II has introduced itself to the incoming Director of the DNPW and the incoming Director of Forestry, both of whom are new in the past quarter. ILRG II has been careful to engage constructively but not promise particular long-term investments while the final scope of work for ILRG II is developed.

The MLNR has launched two new programs with the European Union (EU) and ILRG II participated in launch and review events, including identifying where historical USAID investments can support the initial EU and MLNR partnership. ILRG II will be supporting the participation of two Government of Zambia representatives at the World Bank Land Conference in May 2024 to talk about interministerial coordination in land policy implementation.

## 5.0

# IPARD



IPARD evaluation team facilitated focus group discussions with Indigenous community members in Panama. Credit: Trish Caffrey, ILRG II.

### 5.1 Background & Objectives

IPARD is a Global Development Alliance (GDA) that convenes multi-sector partners to secure Indigenous Peoples' (IP) rights, strengthen their capacity and catalyze economic self-development. IPARD is implemented by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Indigenous Foundation, created through a partnership between USAID and the FSC, and is in its third year of implementation. USAID requested that ILRG II carry out a mid-term performance evaluation of the IPARD GDA that can inform future USAID engagements with IP groups. The approach to this evaluation is highly participatory and may serve as a methodological example for participatory and inclusive evaluations.

The mid-term evaluation was designed to assess the process of co-creation; technical progress towards IP-defined program goals; capacity strengthening; impacts of locally developed work plans and the extent to which they reflect locally driven and locally accountable development; effectiveness of the tools and methodologies employed by the program; and relationships between the stakeholders and tools, methodologies, and mechanisms for building constructive relationships.

### 5.2 Technical Approach

During the last quarter, the evaluation team implemented the first three phases of the mid-term evaluation and began the fourth and final phase. The first phase, the desk review of documentation and development of the research methodology, was completed in January. This was used to inform the research framework, established around three areas of inquiry: a) the

enabling environment, b) stakeholder engagement, and c) capacity strengthening, assessed from the perspective of four groups of stakeholders: IP beneficiaries, IP leaders engaged in IPARD, implementing organizations, and collaborating organizations. The second phase, field research, began with a design consultation and key informant interviews at the beginning of February during IPARD's Pause and Reflection Event and was followed by community visits to conduct focus group discussions with IPs in Panama, Guatemala, and Honduras through mid-March. The team conducted 28 key informant interviews with FSC leadership, IPARD staff, indigenous leadership, and implementing partners, and facilitated nine focus group discussions with beneficiary groups at the community-level across the three countries. In late March, the evaluation team moved to phase three, data review and analysis, and prepared their draft findings, which were shared with FSC and USAID for review. The team has now started on the fourth phase of presenting, consulting, and validating findings and recommendations with key stakeholders, which will continue through May and inform the final report.



IPARD evaluation team conducted focus group discussion and key informant interviews with Indigenous stakeholders in Panama, Guatemala and Honduras. Credit: Trish Caffrey, ILRG II.



## 6.0

# GEWE Cocoa

## 6.1 Background & Objectives

Gender inequality is pervasive in the cocoa sector due to a combination of unequal institutional practices in the value chain and harmful gender norms at the household, community, and institutional levels. Considering the pivotal role of commodity trading companies in the cocoa sector, USAID partnered with ECOM in 2021-2023 to pilot approaches to strengthen GESI within the company; promote livelihood diversification for women; and shift harmful gender norms in two districts in Ghana. Informed by the tools and lessons from this pilot, ILRG II will continue the partnership with ECOM to scale approaches to five new districts in Ghana, as well as replicate the approach in Côte d'Ivoire, the largest cocoa producer in the world.

ECOM has global sustainability commitments that include GESI goals, but regional or country offices lack clear policies and expertise to guide and institutionalize these efforts. The objective is to increase the capacity of key private sector partners to reach, benefit, and empower women, leading to socioeconomic benefits for farmers and companies. The Activity will target ECOM staff in both countries, local exporters and cooperatives in Côte d'Ivoire, 5,900 farmers in Ghana, and 3,000 farmers in Côte d'Ivoire (gender balanced). The expected outcomes are:

- Gender equality and women's empowerment are integrated into ECOM policies and practices in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire.
- Women in cocoa communities in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire have greater access to and control over land and other productive resources, and increased influence over decisions in the household and related to cocoa production.
- Women in cocoa communities in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire have greater economic resilience and access to alternative livelihoods.

## 6.2 Technical Approach

During this quarter, ILRG II developed the implementation plan for the Activity and shared it with USAID. ILRG II advanced the Activity's budget and the scope of work for subcontracts with ECOM in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire. In compliance with USAID's 2023 Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Policy and to further inform interventions, ILRG II will conduct a GESI analysis over the next quarter in Côte d'Ivoire and the following quarter in Ghana. The ILRG II Senior GESI Specialist developed the design for the GESI analysis in Côte d'Ivoire. A local consultant will be engaged for primary data collection with local ECOM staff, exporters, cooperatives, and men and women farmers.

# 7.0

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## GECCA

### 7.1 Background & Objectives

ILRG II, at the request of USAID, supported an application to the GEEA Initiative Fund at USAID to support a gender inclusive agroforestry program, with climate change mitigation and forest restoration co-funding from private sector partners. ILRG II's proposal built on a payment for ecosystem services program piloted under ILRG with ECOM. Numerous dialogues have taken place between USAID, ECOM, ILRG II and the private sector partner to clarify objectives and understand the potential ambition of the program.

### 7.2 Technical Approach

During the last quarter, USAID received notice that ILRG II's application to the GEEA Fund was accepted. Subsequent discussions with ECOM focused on identifying appropriate locations, number of potential villages, number of farmers, and ecological and social opportunities, including consideration of tenure relationships on the land, as well as overlap with other ILRG II interventions (as noted above in the section on GEWE Cocoa).

ILRG II prepared a feasibility assessment to help inform the private sector partner's required due diligence process, a prerequisite for their investment in the project; this assessment was submitted to USAID toward the end of the quarter. The analysis examined the technical needs for agroforestry implementation, as well carbon estimates and budget constraints over 30 years. This will be shared with the private sector due diligence provider as ILRG II continues conversations with ECOM to assess whether the investment is viable.

ILRG II anticipates a mid-April trip to Ghana with ECOM to continue to validate the project assumptions and implementation plan moving forward.

## 8.0

# Environmental Defenders

## 8.1 Background & Objectives

The global environment is facing severe threats from climate change, deforestation, pollution, and other forms of degradation, impacting biodiversity, ecosystems, and the well-being of communities worldwide. Environmental defenders, including human rights advocates, journalists, and local community members, play a crucial role in protecting natural resources and advocating for sustainable conservation practices. These defenders often face threats, harassment, and violence, with 227 environmental defenders killed in 2020, making it the deadliest year on record. Indigenous Peoples, who steward lands containing over 80 percent of the world's biodiversity, are particularly targeted.

The threats against environmental defenders are often driven by economic, political, and social factors, including resource extractivism, large-scale development projects, land grabs, and forced displacement. Recognizing and respecting land tenure is foundational to the security and stability of communities and the protection of their landscapes, but it is not a panacea. Support for ongoing monitoring and management of land is crucial to empower communities to protect their lands and contribute to broader goals of environmental sustainability and social justice.

The USAID ILRG II Environmental Defenders Grant Program is designed to support environmental defender organizations with the resources necessary to enhance their ability to address the root cause of threats and ensure the long-term sustainability of their work. The objectives of this program are multifaceted, aiming not only to provide financial support but also to strengthen the capacity of these organizations in critical areas:

1. Strengthening defenders' work through a broad spectrum of tenure-focused solutions that bolster defenders' capacity to protect their communities and territories effectively.
2. Emphasizing the role of technology in environmental defense, grants may support the adoption and implementation of innovative tools for territory mapping, monitoring, and rights documentation. However, this is not a requirement and strong applications without a technology focus or approach will still be considered.
3. Identifying and helping to scale approaches that have the potential for wider application.
4. Addressing the differentiated needs of Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descent populations, women, and youth environmental defenders.
5. Promoting the long-term sustainability of environmental defender organizations through capacity strengthening.

## 8.2 Technical Approach

ILRG II developed draft Terms of Reference (TOR) and grant criteria for the grants facility, which was shared with USAID and ILRG II partners for feedback. ILRG II submitted the revised TOR for the grant facility to USAID toward the end of the second quarter. In the next quarter, ILRG II will publish the Request for Applications and solicit applications through a two-phased process. In the first phase, applicants will submit a brief concept note. The ILRG II team will

review concept notes and invite selected applicants to submit full applications in the second phase.

ILRG II expects to award up to four grants of between \$150,000 to \$300,000 each for organizations working in regions and countries with a high level of threat to environmental defenders' groups and their territories. These regions include Latin America & the Caribbean, Asia, and Sub-Saharan Africa. The grant term will be 18 to 36 months, though this may vary depending on each proposed activity's scope and objectives.

## 9.0

# Green Cities/Adaptation

## 9.1 Background & Objectives

Urban expansion is placing pressure on governments to manage development, protect ecosystems, and provide essential services amidst high population growth and migration. This growth often occurs in areas vulnerable to climate impacts or in informal settlements lacking resilient services. Migration further strains urban areas and alters land use and governance in rural source communities. Governments face challenges in planning for sustainable, climate-resilient growth and financing service delivery. Key strategies include improving land use planning, securing property rights, and enhancing land valuation and revenue collection. However, land administration agencies in sub-Saharan Africa have historically struggled with these tasks, and funding for these agencies mainly comes from national budget allocations, with underutilized revenue sources like transaction-based fees and property taxes.

This activity aims to pilot land tenure and land use planning approaches in peri-urban areas to generate sustainable revenue for resilient infrastructure and services through partnerships with municipal governments, and to inform national and international coordination around land tenure in peri-urban environments. Initial discussions have identified Malawi as a potential partner country, and ILRG II and partner experience in Malawi both with the USAID mission, as well as with government counterparts, suggest that the activity is likely to be well received.

## 9.2 Technical Approach

During the second quarter, ILRG II and partner GLA initiated a concept note on a pilot project for Green Cities/Adaptation aimed at supporting climate-resilient urban expansion in Malawi. The primary goal of the conceptualized project is to design, implement, and evaluate a replicable model for participatory urban planning that can enhance the adaptability and resilience of Malawian cities to climate change. The initiative seeks to guide urban expansion away from environmentally sensitive areas and promote denser, affordable, transit-oriented settlement patterns through two main project components. First, the creation of a city-wide land use plan that focuses on climate adaptation goals, productivity and inclusion. Second, the development of neighborhood plans using land pooling and subdivision that involves a participatory process that empowers traditional authorities and landowners to guide the conversion of their lands to urban use. In the upcoming quarter, ILRG II and GLA will submit the concept note to USAID for feedback and, if approved, will implement a legal and political economy analysis of the concept's feasibility in Malawi.

# 10.0

## Research and Learning

### 10.1 Background & Objectives

ILRG II provides support to both USAID Washington and Missions on ad hoc research and learning tasks to explore new areas of interest for USAID, identify rigorous evidence and best practices, and potentially inform future activity design. This quarter, ILRG II supported a literature review on cluster farming in Ethiopia, research on the linkages between land tenure and property rights and food security to inform division talking points, review of the draft LRG private sector engagement (PSE) framework, and initial exploration on how to accurately value community carbon assets in land acquisitions or land-based investments.

### 10.2 Technical Approach

#### **Ethiopia Cluster Farm Literature Review**

USAID and USAID/Ethiopia were interested in learning more about the efficacy of cluster farming for smallholder farmers given the government's continued investments in the initiative. ILRG II assembled an internal research team within the agriculture practice at Tetra Tech to conduct a literature review focused on experimental and quasi-experimental evidence of the impact of cluster farming on farmer yield and productivity, access to inputs, household income, and decision-making and social well-being. They also examined potential gender equality and social inclusion impacts, as well as lessons learned from various implementation approaches. The literature review is currently with the Mission for review.

#### **Linkages between Land Tenure and Property Rights (LTPR) and Food Security**

LRG asked ILRG II to develop a set of talking points on LTPR impacts on food security and agriculture. The materials include a general overview of the linkages between land and food security, a review of rigorous evidence of tenure related impacts on key food security outcomes, and USAID programming examples. ILRG II prepared initial draft talking points which are currently with USAID for review.

#### **LRG Private Sector Engagement Framework**

The USAID team drafted a framework outlining the division's approach to PSE, based on learnings from past programs including ILRG. ILRG II provided comments on the draft framework to inform finalization of the approach.

#### **Valuation of Community Carbon Assets**

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) released its draft standard on land acquisition and land use restrictions (ESS 5). USAID provided comments on the text, which included concerns about how community carbon assets were being accounted for in compensation and relocation decisions. The ADB invited USAID to provide draft text that could be included in the accompanying ESS 5 guidance note. USAID LRG and Sustainable Landscapes teams are interested in ILRG II support on this task and the ILRG II drafted SOW is with USAID for review.

# 11.0

## Communications and Events

### 11.1 Communications

This quarter, ILRG II set up the new [ILRG II project page](#) on LandLinks and developed an initial project [factsheet](#). ILRG II celebrated International Women's Day (IWD) on March 8th with a [blog](#) highlighting the gender conservation champions from the Women's Leadership and Empowerment course in Zambia, promoted on social media by [USAIDEnviro](#), [USAID/Zambia](#), and [Gillian Caldwell's](#) handles. ILRG II was also featured in a Tetra Tech [blog](#) for IWD. The February USAID LandMatters newsletter featured a number of technical products produced under ILRG, and the March GenDev newsletter highlighted the ILRG Gender Norms Report.

### 11.2 Events

#### **World Bank Land and Poverty Conference 2024**

This quarter, three panels with full or partial ILRG II support were accepted to present at the World Bank Land Conference, to be held in DC from May 13-17, 2024. Panelists will present key learnings from ILRG project implementation and contribute to discussions pertinent to the launching of ILRG II activities. The three panels include:

- Tuesday, May 14, 11:00 am - 12:30 pm: Integrated Land Policy Implementation – Cross Ministerial Coordination and Barriers to Securing Land Rights for Development (chaired by Matt Somerville)
- Wednesday, May 15, 11:00 am - 12:30 pm: The Role of Gender Transformative Approaches for Securing Tenure Rights for Sustainability: Lessons Learned from Comparative Research and Practice (chaired by Thais Bessa)
- Wednesday, May 15, 11:00 am - 12:30 pm: Customary and Statutory Land Administration Challenges in the Era of Climate Change: Voices from the Grassroots (chaired by Mark Freudenberger)

Key panel insights from government officials from Malawi and Zambia will include challenges and opportunities in cross-sectoral/ministerial coordination, including how donor support and technical assistance can best incentivize collaboration. Panelists from Madagascar, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), and Ghana will share perspectives on the intersection of state statutory frameworks and customary tenure regimes to create new land governance arrangements in the face of climate shocks. They will articulate a vision for the future of land governance adapted to the aggravating climate change situation. The panel on women's land rights will share operational innovations to strengthen women's ability to own, access, use, and control land as a critical pathway to economic security and sustainability. A key goal of the panels is to reflect on the evolving challenges and opportunities of implementation that ILRG II and other USAID projects may face.

Across the three panels, ILRG II is sponsoring the participation of land and resource governance experts from Madagascar, Zambia, Ghana, Malawi, and DRC. Securing US visas for

international panelists has been a key concern this quarter; of the eight panelists requiring visas to attend the conference, five have obtained visas at the time of writing, while three panelists are still awaiting visas. The ILRG II chairpersons on each of the three panels have been coordinating preparatory technical discussions with panelists in advance of the conference and are working to prepare their presentations.

### **USAID Partners Meetings**

ILRG II and partner New America will support a bi-annual meeting of USAID implementing partners to share learnings, best practices, and discuss emerging issues in the sector. The first closed door meeting, titled “Land Forward,” is planned for May 17 around the World Bank Land Conference and will feature lightning talks on innovative technologies, methodologies and partnerships in the land space, followed by participant-led breakout discussions.



## 12.0

# Emerging Activities

Before ILRG II activities have approved scopes of work and budgets, they are considered “emerging activities.” These potential activities have been flagged for ILRG II by USAID Washington. ILRG II is on standby to engage on these activities once USAID Washington or Mission concurrence is received. In some cases, emerging activities may be relatively small and emerge from the learning and communications agenda throughout the year.

ILRG II emerging activities include potential field-based Mission support for USAID/Zambia, a number of smaller activities supporting Indigenous Peoples with funding from the USAID Washington Inclusive Development (ID) Hub, future work on critical minerals, and several smaller research and learning tasks.

### 11.1 USAID/Zambia

ILRG II anticipates future field-based Mission support for USAID/Zambia, building on the current technical and capacity strengthening support funded by USAID Washington. In line with the approved activity development process, USAID/Zambia will initiate the process with USAID Washington by independently developing a scope of work and budget for the activity. ILRG II stands ready to engage on implementation plan development after USAID concurrence.

### 11.2 Indigenous Peoples

There is initial interest from the USAID ID Hub to work with ILRG II on a number of smaller activities in support of its Indigenous People’s portfolio. Building on initial engagement on the IPARD evaluation, the ID Hub is interested in working with ILRG II to facilitate a co-creation process with Indigenous Peoples in Brazil on how USAID can help Indigenous groups access and benefit from climate/carbon finance. There is also potential interest in working with ILRG II to support a Pacific Island Indigenous People’s Conference on climate resilience and land tenure. ILRG II might also support Indigenous youth attendance at the FSC Indigenous Foundation Conference. ILRG II is on standby to engage in these activities pending finalization of scopes of work and budgets and USAID concurrence.

### 11.3 Critical Minerals

USAID noted that ILRG II may support future activities on critical minerals. ILRG II is waiting for further details on this potential task, but is building out a list of internal and external critical minerals experts to assist with any future opportunities as they materialize.

### 11.4 Research and Learning

ILRG II is aware of a few future research and learning tasks that it is likely to support.

#### **Honduras LTPR Assessment**

USAID/Honduras approached USAID LRG about potential ILRG II support on an LTPR assessment. They are interested in short term, practical recommendations to help inform the upcoming Country Development Cooperation Strategy process, as well as what opportunities

exist for integrating LTPR considerations in the Mission's current activity portfolio. The assessment should address the invasion of private sector agricultural land in different parts of the country, as well as the role of clarifying boundaries of protected areas to support allocation/monitoring of carbon credits and related profits. ILRG II is currently waiting on finalization of the scope of work and budget by the Mission and USAID concurrence to begin initial scoping for this activity.

### **LRG Research Agenda**

LRG noted an interest in having ILRG II support an update to the 2020 USAID LRG Research agenda later this year.

# ANNEX

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## Project-specific Performance Indicators

ILRG II's MEL Plan was submitted this quarter, including proposed performance indicators at the global level. Given the field-based Mission support approach under ILRG II, the project is proposing identifying appropriate indicators at the activity level in conjunction with implementation plan development. These will be added to the ILRG II MEL Plan on an annual basis. Reporting on these performance indicators will be included here in future quarterly reports pending approval of ILRG II MEL Plan.

# ANNEX

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## Success Story

# ZAMBIA: STRENGTHENING GBV AWARENESS & MITIGATION AMONG WILDLIFE LAW ENFORCEMENT



“Gender-based violence (GBV) in our workplace is very common,” said Memory Misozi, a wildlife police officer based in Kafue National Park, Zambia. “Many of us did not know that we can do something about it.” The wildlife sector in Zambia is male-dominated. Due to structural barriers in the recruitment and training process, and gender norms that see law enforcement as a man’s job, women make up just 11 percent of entry level community scout positions. When women like Memory do manage to break into the sector, they often face increased risks of GBV from their families and

communities for stepping outside traditional gender norms. Institutional GBV within the workplace is also highly pervasive. Despite these risks, women continue to try to enter the sector. Wildlife scouts are an important source of employment for youth in rural areas where jobs are scarce, and women’s participation in natural resource governance and law enforcement improves conservation and socioeconomic outcomes for both their households and communities.

ILRG II is working to increase women’s participation in the wildlife sector. Working directly with government and NGO partners who recruit, train and employ scouts, ILRG II developed a gender sensitive training curriculum, reformed recruitment practices to decrease barriers for women, and integrated GBV awareness raising and mitigation efforts within institutions. In March 2024, ILRG II facilitated The Nature Conservancy’s (TNC) first human rights and GBV training for 32 Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW) officers in the Kafue landscape. “From the time we started awareness in Chunga [ranger training school], we have paid attention to GBV among officers and are acting on GBV cases,” said Febby Mwale, Human Resource Officer for the Ministry of Tourism and Arts who attended the training. “We expect that as officers are being made aware of their rights, it will help them to report GBV incidents.” ILRG II is providing technical support to conservation organizations to increase their confidence to address gender norms within their workplaces, reducing barriers to entry and helping to create safe, supportive environments once women are inside.

# ANNEX

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## Project Brief

ILRG II's project brief is attached below.





# INTEGRATED LAND AND RESOURCE GOVERNANCE II (ILRG II) FACT SHEET

## BACKGROUND

Secure land and resource rights, coupled with sound governance, encourage investment and support economic growth. They provide a foundation for urban planning and service delivery. Secure rights and good governance enable effective and equitable management of natural resources including forests, wetlands, water sources, biodiversity, and critical minerals. Secure land and resource rights can reduce conflicts and contribute positively to peace, stability, and resilient economic growth. Yet, across many countries, land and resource rights frameworks and governance institutions are weak; there is limited capacity to enforce rules and norms, and for many, access to justice is out of reach. These issues constrain economic, environmental, and social development outcomes in many USAID-presence countries.

## GOALS

USAID's Integrated Land and Resource Governance II (ILRG II) project works with USAID Missions, operating units, host country governments, civil society, the private sector, and local communities to develop inclusive, innovative and replicable strategies to clarify tenure and property rights and resolve land-related conflicts. ILRG II's approach to land and resource governance supports a broad range of development goals, including:

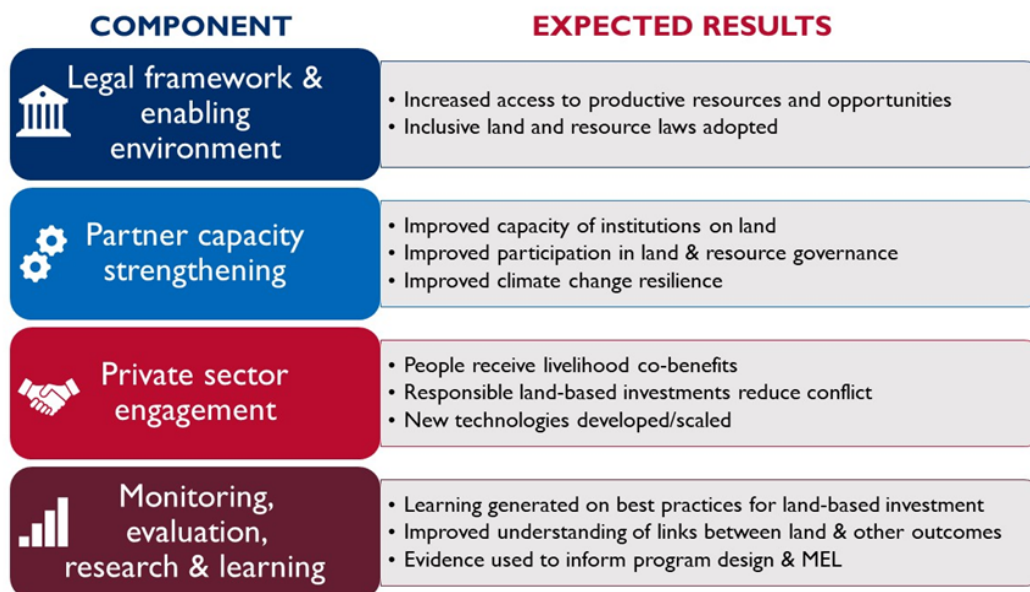
- Empowering women, Indigenous Peoples, youth, and marginalized or underrepresented groups;
- Advancing inclusive climate action and nature-based solutions;
- Conserving biodiversity;
- Strengthening sustainable food and agro-ecological systems;
- Promoting responsible land-based investing and innovation;
- Mitigating or preventing conflict;

- Adopting more responsible and inclusive practices in the mining of critical minerals, essential for the green energy transition;
- Supporting sustainable urbanization and disaster risk management.

ILRG II works with stakeholders to create space for dialogue on these issues and implements inclusive approaches that provide incremental progress toward more just land and resource governance.

## ILRG II TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MODEL

A strong emphasis on gender and social inclusion informs each of ILRG II's four components:



## COUNTRY ACTIVITIES

ILRG II provides technical, research, and field-based implementation support to USAID Missions and Operating Units. Building on tools, approaches, and relationships developed under previous activities and under the program, ILRG II anticipates working closely with country governments, local communities, and the private sector. Activities may include implementing systematic land documentation; better addressing land, resilience, and inclusion issues in commercial supply chains; responsibly transferring underutilized private sector landholdings to local communities; and supporting meaningful participation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in land and resource use decisions. Working with consortium partners and others based on activity needs, ILRG II will ensure that learning is aggregated across jurisdictions and shared in regional and local forums to strengthen and grow the knowledge base in land and resource governance.

## CONTACT

**COR**  
 Karol Boudreaux  
[kboudreaux@usaid.gov](mailto:kboudreaux@usaid.gov)  
 LRG Division, REFS

**A/COR**  
 Ioana Bouvier  
[ibouvier@usaid.gov](mailto:ibouvier@usaid.gov)  
 LRG Division, REFS

**COP**  
 Ailey Kaiser Hughes  
[ailey.kaiserhughes@tetrattech.com](mailto:ailey.kaiserhughes@tetrattech.com)  
 USAID contractor/ILRG II



# ANNEX

## List of Media

ILRG II will make a proactive effort to communicate outcomes through blogs, news articles and events.

Title	Country	Date	Location (Link)	Notes/Dissemination
February USAID LandMatters newsletter	Global	2/29/24	email	ILRG final technical products featured in February LandMatters newsletter.
ILRG II Global Fact Sheet	Global	3/5/24	<a href="#">LandLinks</a>	
IWD 2024 blog - Meet Zambia's Conservation Gender Champions	Zambia	3/6/24	<a href="#">LandLinks</a>	Promoted on X by <a href="#">USAIDEnviro</a> , <a href="#">USAID/Zambia</a> , <a href="#">Gillian Caldwell</a> and <a href="#">Tetra Tech</a> (also <a href="#">Facebook</a> and <a href="#">LinkedIn</a> )
Tetra Tech IWD 2024 blog - Accelerating Progress by Investing in Women	Zambia	3/8/24	<a href="#">Exposure</a>	ILRG women's leadership and empowerment training in Zambia featured in Tetra Tech IWD blog. Promoted on <a href="#">X</a> , <a href="#">Facebook</a> and <a href="#">LinkedIn</a>
March GenDev newsletter	Global	3/8/24	email	ILRG Gender Norms report featured in March GenDev newsletter.



Photo caption: ILRG II Zambia Gender Specialist Patricia Malasha helped facilitate an initial meeting of the Stand for Her Land Campaign in Zambia with other women's land rights champions, many of whom participated in the ILRG Women's Leadership and Empowerment training cohorts. Photo Credit: ILRG II.

U.S. Agency for International Development  
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20523  
Tel: (202) 712-0000  
Fax: (202) 216-3524  
[www.usaid.gov](http://www.usaid.gov)