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**ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT, FY2024**  
**INCLUDING QUARTERLY REPORT, JULY – SEPT 2024**  
**INTEGRATED LAND AND RESOURCE**  
**GOVERNANCE II (ILRG II) TASK ORDER**



# Table of Contents

<b>Table of Contents</b>	<b>iii</b>
<b>List of Acronyms</b>	<b>v</b>
<b>1.0 Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2.0 Year I Summary: Key Accomplishments &amp; Challenges</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>3.0 Project Management</b>	<b>8</b>
3.1 Project Performance	8
3.2 Project Management	9
4.1 Background & Objectives	10
4.2 Technical Approach	10
<b>5.0 ID Hub</b>	<b>15</b>
5.1 Background & Objectives	15
5.2 Technical Approach	15
<b>6.0 GEWE Côte d’Ivoire</b>	<b>17</b>
6.1 Background & Objectives	17
6.2 Technical Approach	18
<b>7.0 GECCA - Ghana</b>	<b>19</b>
7.1 Background & Objectives	19
7.2 Technical Approach	20
<b>8.0 Environmental Defenders</b>	<b>22</b>
8.1 Background & Objectives	22
8.2 Technical Approach	23
<b>9.0 Green Cities/Adaptation</b>	<b>24</b>
9.1 Background & Objectives	24
9.2 Technical Approach	25
<b>10.0 Research and Learning</b>	<b>26</b>
10.1 Background & Objectives	26
10.2 Technical Approach	26

<b>11.0 Communications and Events</b>	<b>28</b>
11.1 Communications	28
11.2 Events	28
<b>ANNEX 1 Project-specific Performance Indicators</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>ANNEX 2 Success Story</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>ANNEX 3 Project Brief</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>ANNEX 4 List of Media</b>	<b>41</b>

# List of Acronyms

ADB	Asian Development Bank
ADS	Automated Directives Systems
CRB	Community Resources Board
CBNRM	Community Based Natural Resource Management
DNPW	Department of National Parks and Wildlife
ECOM	Ecom Agroindustrial Corp.
FSC-IF	Forest Stewardship Council Indigenous Foundation
GECCA	Gender Equality and Cocoa Climate Activity
GEEA	Gender Equity and Equality Action
GEI	Gender Equality Index
GESI	Gender Equality and Social Inclusion
GEWE	Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment
GMA	Game Management Area
ID	Inclusive Development
ILAW	Improving Land Access for Women
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
MEL	Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning
MLGRD	Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development
MLNR	Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources
NCS	Natural Climate Solutions
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NRM	Natural Resource Management
OYW	One Young World

PES	Payment for Ecosystem Services
REFS	Resilience, Environment and Food Security
RFA	Request for Applications
SLOA	Sustainable Landscapes Opportunity Analysis
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VLUP	Village Land Use Planning
WBLC	World Bank Land Conference
WLR	Women's Land Rights
ZCLAS	Zambia Customary Land Administration System

# I.0

## Introduction

The Integrated Land and Resource Governance II (ILRG II) Task Order supports the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Land and Resource Governance Division in the Center for Natural Environment in the Bureau of Resilience, Environment and Food Security (REFS). The project develops, implements, assesses and evaluates interventions that secure land tenure and resource rights and strengthen governance systems.

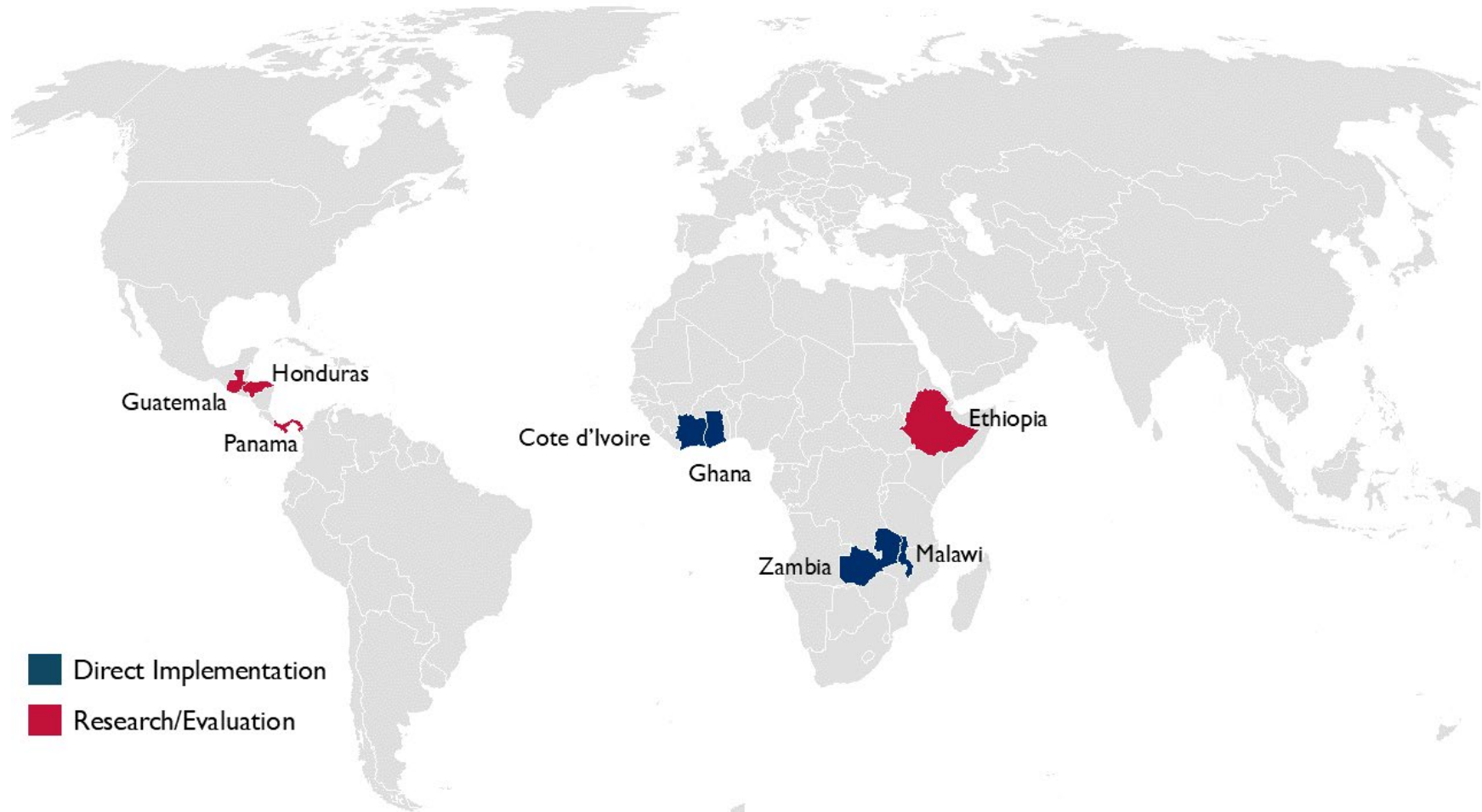
ILRG II identifies and addresses barriers to secure land and resource governance, supporting a range of development objectives such as combating climate change, promoting food security, conserving biodiversity, advancing gender equality and social inclusion, engaging the private sector, preventing conflict, supporting sustainable urbanization, and enabling localization. The project provides technical assistance to strengthen and secure land tenure and resource rights for women, men, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, youth, persons with disabilities, and other marginalized groups in USAID-presence countries. Additionally, ILRG II enhances the capacity of stakeholders to advocate for their rights and improves the systems responsible for implementing these rights. ILRG II also supports rigorous research and analysis to better understand effective strategies for achieving these goals and the connections between land and resource governance and other development outcomes. Through this work, USAID fosters equitable and resilient societies where land and resource governance rights are respected and leveraged for inclusive, broad-based growth.

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.
- 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 first annual report covers September 2023 to September 2024.

## ILRG II YEAR I GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE



## 2.0

# Year I Summary: Key Accomplishments & Challenges

In ILRG II's first year, the project established its core long-term team in conjunction with systems, procedures, and communications materials to enable rapid and responsive support to USAID across multiple land and resource governance (LRG)-related technical themes and geographies. In parallel with contractual start-up, the project initiated technical activities in Zambia, Ghana, Central America, Malawi, and Cote d'Ivoire. The project conducted research, shared knowledge at several significant events, and kicked-off ILRG II's grants program with a Request for Applications (RFA) focused on environmental defenders. Year I challenges included staff being stretched during simultaneous ILRG close-out and ILRG II start-up, slower than expected approvals for requests to subcontract, and delays in obtaining clarification on Zambia implementation priorities.



### 12 Startup Deliverables Completed

During Year I, ILRG II produced guiding documents for the project, including GESI Strategy and MEL Plan.

### 8 USAID Countries Supported

ILRG II country engagements in Year I spanned 8 countries, with direct implementation in 4, including a long-term presence in Zambia.



### 130 Grant Applications to Support Environmental Defenders

ILRG II released a RFA for a global grant mechanism to support environmental defender organizations on land-related threats, receiving 130 applications.

### 9 USAID Missions, Bureaus and Operating Units Supported

ILRG II supported a variety of Washington Operating Units and Missions through research tasks and activity planning and implementation.



### 4 Panels at 2 Conferences Facilitated

ILRG II led 3 panels featuring 17 panelists at the World Bank Land Conference, as well as 1 panel at the USAID Global Gender Equality Conference in May 2024.

### 2 Private Sector Partnerships

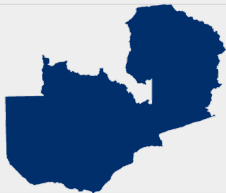
ILRG II partnered with 2 private sector companies on implementation in Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana to support inclusive, climate resilience cocoa supply chains.



### 160 People Trained in Land, Gender, Resource Management

ILRG II supported trainings with community and NGO stakeholders in Zambia and global youth Indigenous leaders.

## **Activity-specific highlights include:**



**Zambia:** Building upon momentum from ILRG, ILRG II continued to advance Washington-supported work including providing technical and capacity strengthening support to government and non-governmental organization (NGO) partners in the land, wildlife, and forestry space. On gender, ILRG II continued technical collaboration with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) to strengthen the capacity of women leaders in the Kafue landscape and with Wildlife Crime Prevention to design a strategy for the empowerment of frontline women in law enforcement. ILRG II remains involved in the Women’s Land Rights (WLR) platform which uses ILRG-developed tools, and continues to explore opportunities to expand capacity strengthening support to NGOs in land and natural resource management. Some activities in Zambia were unable to ramp up rapidly due to delays in obtaining clarity on implementation priorities.



**Inclusive Development (ID) Hub:** The Indigenous Peoples Alliance for Rights and Development (IPARD) evaluation team implemented the fourth and final phase of the mid-term evaluation of the Global Development Alliance, which convenes multi-sectoral partners to secure Indigenous Peoples’ (IP) rights, strengthen their capacity, and catalyze economic self-development. ILRG II also awarded a grant to the Forest Stewardship Committee Indigenous Foundation (FSC-IF) to support the participation of global Indigenous youth in the 2024 One Young World (OYW) Summit held in Montreal, Canada in September 2024.



**Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment (GEWE) Côte d’Ivoire:** With support from the Ecom Agroindustrial Corp. (ECOM) Global and Cote d’Ivoire teams, ILRG II drafted an initial SOW, budget and implementation plan for the GEWE Côte d’Ivoire activity, building on lessons from the Ghana GEWE pilot. During Year I, ILRG II carried out a baseline gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) analysis, including primary qualitative and quantitative data collection led by local consultants and a desk-based literature review. ILRG II subcontractor Equal Origins helped Zamacom (ECOM’s legal entity in Cote d’Ivoire) complete its Gender Equality Index (GEI) for baseline GESI benchmarking and is facilitating a 12-week virtual training on GESI for 21 ECOM staff and cooperative members (10 women, 11 men).



### **Gender Equality and Cocoa Climate Action (GECCA) Ghana:**

ILRG II supported initial activity design and funding discussions with USAID, ECOM, and a private sector funder to develop a gender-responsive agroforestry project in Ghana that generates and retires verified carbon removal credits. ILRG II helped secure USAID funding through a successful Gender Equity and Equality Action (GEEA) Fund application, and is preparing a feasibility assessment with a carbon project developer to inform private sector funding decisions. ILRG II also conducted a baseline GESI analysis, including qualitative and quantitative data collection, in two proposed activity sites to inform activity design.



### **Environmental Defenders:**

ILRG II released a RFA for the Environmental Defenders grant program, with Phase I concept papers due June 1. ILRG II received and reviewed 130 Phase I concept papers, narrowing the field to a shortlist of applicants who were invited to submit full applications as Phase 2 of the solicitation. Eight full applications were received and reviewed in August 2024, and ILRG II anticipates award of the first tranche of grants early in Year 2, subject to Mission concurrence with the proposed recipients and activities.



### **Green Cities/Adaptation:**

ILRG II developed a conceptual framework for climate-resilient urban expansion in Malawi and launched a scenario analysis to assess legal, land tenure, GESI, and climate vulnerability considerations in six peri-urban potential pilot areas. Based on completion of the scenario analysis, the pilot is expected to commence in Year 2, Q2. The pilot aims to design, implement, and evaluate a replicable model for participatory urban planning, enhancing the resilience of Malawian cities to climate change.



### **Events:**

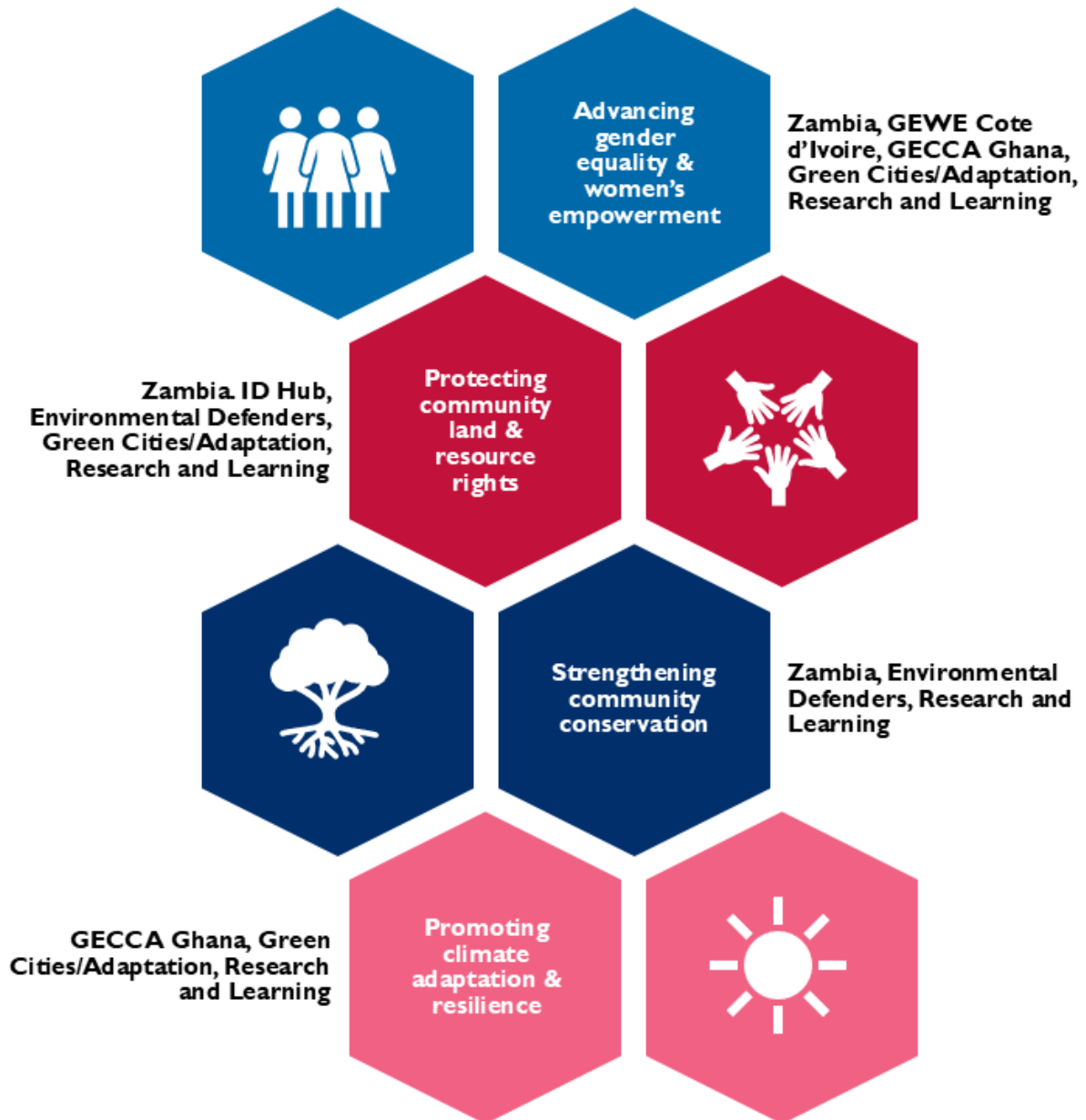
ILRG II actively participated in several significant events during Year 1. At the World Bank Land Conference (WBLC) in May, ILRG II led three panels with 17 representatives from various sectors and countries, addressing land policy implementation, land administration in the context of climate change, and women's land rights. ILRG II re-launched the USAID LRG implementing partners meeting, engaging in participant-led discussions on artificial intelligence, critical minerals, land corruption, Indigenous territories, and other current issues at the USAID Land Forward event. At the USAID 2024 Global Gender Equality Conference, ILRG II presented on shifting harmful gender norms. The project gave a virtual presentation on outcomes of the Sustainable Landscapes Opportunity Analysis (SLOA) for Zambia to USAID's Natural Climate Solutions (NCS) team in Washington and led a brown bag for USAID staff on the valuation of community carbon assets.



**Research Activities:** During Year I, ILRG II completed several small research pieces designed to help USAID expand knowledge on potential new areas of work, better communicate about the linkages between LRG and other development priorities, and support Missions to explore their own research priorities. Efforts included:

- Literature review on Ethiopia cluster farming;
- Feedback on the LRG private sector engagement framework;
- Talking points on linkages between LRG and food security;
- Background research on how to value community carbon assets to inform the Asian Development Bank guidance note on land acquisitions and land use;
- Analysis of barriers and opportunities for gender equality and women's empowerment in the agriculture sector;
- Analysis comparing USAID's 2016 Guidelines on Compulsory Displacement and Resettlement in USAID Programming with other multilateral development banks' guidance; and
- An outline for a Mandatory Automated Directives System (ADS) Reference on the social impacts of changes to land tenure or natural resource use.

## ILRG II YEAR I THEMATIC AREAS



# 3.0

## Project Management

### 3.1 Project Performance

ILRG II consistently delivers high-quality, timely services to USAID Washington, USAID Missions, and other partners, addressing diverse needs while receiving positive feedback for both its responsiveness and technical performance.

**Communication and Collaboration:** ILRG II is known for its strong communication and collaborative efforts. USAID Zambia expressed appreciation for a comprehensive update on ILRG II's stakeholder engagements, noting, "We are elated by the status and progress made on the various actions that ILRG II is tracking and supporting." Highlighting ILRG II's partnership approach with other USAID-funded projects, USAID Zambia also commented, "It's great to see the different pieces moving forward, and we commend ILRG II for its pivotal role in these processes. Your collaborative approach to ensure key partners are on board is commendable, and we look forward to further updates."

**Quality:** ILRG II consistently delivers diverse, high-quality services. Recent feedback includes praise for a literature review on cluster farming in Ethiopia, described by USAID as, "high quality and interesting." Similarly, ILRG II's preparatory work for the GECCA-Ghana activity, including the development of investment criteria, also received positive feedback. During consultations on the 2024 Zambia Wildlife Bill, USAID Zambia remarked, "Thank you for the great work ensuring that the voice of traditional leadership and communities is heard."

ILRG II's GESI Strategy and gender analysis for value chains were both well received by USAID with the Contract Officer's Representative noting on the former, "Super nice work!" Additionally, an ILRG II report on carbon asset valuation was described by USAID as an "excellent resource," and USAID was pleased with panel presentations at the World Bank Land Conference and the follow-on Land Forward event.

**Schedule and Timeliness:** ILRG II has submitted all Year I deliverables on time. In addition, the project is highly responsive to USAID requests, even those requiring rapid turnaround. For example, the project provided one-day turnaround when asked to prepare materials for the LandMatters newsletter, draft a 2-pager on land work in Zambia for an upcoming Feed the Future visit, and responded rapidly to ad hoc data requests. Following the development of agricultural and land tenure talking points, USAID LRG stated, "We greatly appreciate the rapid response to this request and how you've managed to pull together such a substantial amount of material so quickly."

ILRG II set an ambitious timeline for the Environmental Defenders grant solicitations, and despite receiving 130 concept papers in four languages in Phase I, was able to complete the concept paper review process within weeks and adhere to the original schedule.

## 3.2 Project Management

Over the course of Year I, ILRG II continued many of the successful management approaches used under ILRG, including bi-weekly written updates and weekly calls with USAID on overall project management supplemented by activity-specific coordination calls with USAID activity managers and ILRG II activity leads.

The project received approvals for the ILRG II GESI Strategy; Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) Plan; and Grants Under Contract Manual. The team created a start-up package to facilitate the expected expansion of the ILRG II portfolio into new countries and developed a tailored Salesforce based digital approvals platform which has now processed dozens of requests and is streamlining the process of obtaining and tracking approvals.

Consent to subcontract was received for ILRG II partners New America Foundation, Equal Origins, WI-HER, and Cadasta. Over the course of Year I, the project team expanded with the additions of an Operations Specialist, a part-time Senior GESI Specialist, and a Technical Advisor.

## 4.0

# Zambia



*ILRG II supported partner TNC to lead a women's leadership and empowerment training in Mumbwa Chiefdom, bringing together 41 women leaders from fisheries, wildlife, and forestry management groups. Credit: ILRG II.*

### 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 customary governance, as well as support for legal and policy reforms in land, forestry and wildlife. These investments in bridging urban and rural land administration systems, supporting customary and state governance regimes and encouraging cross-sectoral collaboration are crucial to spurring equitable investment in critical minerals, improving food security and agricultural production, and ensuring that Zambia's growing towns and cities are well planned.

### 4.2 Technical Approach

Over the course of the year, ILRG II confirmed a Mission field-based support buy-in scope of work focused on inclusive wildlife and natural resource management to complement the Washington-funded components on customary land administration. ILRG II set up a small office with a core team, initiated a grant opportunity with the Chipata District Land Alliance, and established relationships with government and customary stakeholders, as well as with potential future civil society and non-governmental partners, particularly in the Eastern Kafue and the North Luangwa Landscapes.

ILRG II activities in Zambia are centered around three pillars of work: 1) Advancing national policy, regulations and advocacy in land and natural resource management; 2) Increasing transparency, coordination, accountability and inclusion in natural resource management (NRM); and 3) Strengthening community-based wildlife, forest, and land management.

#### 4.2.1 Advance National Policy, Regulations and Advocacy in Land and Natural Resources Management

ILRG II aims to strengthen collaboration among government institutions, customary leaders, and civil society to develop a cohesive approach to land and natural resource management in Zambia. Based on ILRG II's long-standing engagement in the land and NRM space in Zambia, the project is able to facilitate multi-stakeholder consultations, creating spaces for dialogue and collaboration to ensure that community voices are heard and integrated into national policy discussions. ILRG II established relationships with the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources (MLNR), the Ministry of Tourism through the Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW), the Ministry of Green Economy and Environment through the Forestry Department, and the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development (MLGRD) through both the Physical Planning Department and the House of Chiefs. With the new two year scope of work for ILRG II clarified, the specific engagements with each department will be defined early in the coming year, with a recognition that ILRG II will adapt its approach based on the interest and engagement of each department.

**Natural Resource Management Sector:** ILRG II, in collaboration with the USAID Business Enabling Project, supported the launch of Zambia's first Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) Policy. The policy promotes an integrated and coordinated approach to natural resource management. ILRG II provided inputs into both the Wildlife Act and the Forestry Policy, supporting the government consultation processes associated with each. With respect to the Wildlife Act consultations, communities and chiefs raised concerns regarding inadequate consultation. ILRG II subsequently supported additional consultations specifically targeting these two constituencies.

ILRG II also provided technical analysis for the Wildlife Act, emphasizing the need for the Act to consider gender equity, promote community natural resource rights in Game Management Areas (GMAs), clarify the role of Community Partnership Parks, allow for wildlife ranching in GMA development zones, and increase the Community Resources Board (CRB) terms from three to five years.



*Traditional leaders attended a community consultation on the new Wildlife and Protected Areas Bill in September 2024. Credit: ILRG II.*

ILRG II continued to support the Forestry Department and its partners on data integration and management. In particular, ILRG II is coordinating with the Czech Republic's Sustainable Landscape Through Integrated Management program to convene a cohort of data experts to share land-related data, building on ILRG's investment in a community forest management group database. ILRG II shared SLOA outcomes and data platforms—a

continuation of learning from ILRG— with USAID, highlighting the data platform’s potential use as a tool for land use planning and decision-making across Zambia.

**Land Sector:** With respect to cooperating partner engagement, ILRG II handed over coordination of the land sector cooperating partner group to UN-Habitat this past year, and hopes to support an incoming chair for the next year. The MLNR has launched two new programs with the European Union and these represent strong potential partners for the coming years. In particular, ILRG II has supported the Ministry on customary land data standards through participation in two initial Ministry workshops and review of the Land Act. ILRG II also facilitated a presentation to the House of Chiefs with the Ministry of Lands Technical Team on customary land documentation standards.

ILRG II supported the participation of two Government of Zambia representatives from the MLGRD and the MLNR at the World Bank Land Conference in May 2024 to talk about interministerial coordination in land policy implementation. ILRG II Zambia Country Coordinator, Patricia Malasha, presented on a panel at the World Bank Land Conference and at the Global USAID Gender Equality Conference on innovations to support women's land rights. Additionally, Technical Advisor Matt Sommerville presented on land rights and community-based forest management in Zambia.

#### **4.2.2 Increase Transparency, Coordination, Accountability and Inclusion in NRM**

ILRG II works to enhance transparency, coordination, and accountability in land and NRM by strengthening the capacity of community-based organizations to collaborate with the government, private sector, and NGOs. ILRG II’s work focuses on building institutional capacity for coordinated stakeholder partnerships in CBNRM and supporting national-level learning events that bring together key actors to share insights and best practices.

**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 based violence and leadership training with recently elected CRB members and for women in law enforcement. 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. While excitement around the campaign was high, without new or additional resources for the launch of a national campaign ILRG II opted for a localized campaign on equal representation, participation and benefits for women and men in land and natural resource management.

ILRG II has continued technical collaboration with TNC on women's leadership and empowerment training to build the capacity of women leaders in the Kafue landscape. The WLR platform continues to support gender champions from organizations



*ILRG II helped partner TNC facilitate a gender-based violence training for women CRB members and women in wildlife law enforcement in Eastern Kafue. Credit: ILRG II.*

in land and natural resource management to advance the integration of gender using ILRG II developed tools. The platform was formalized to continue to offer technical support, promote national and community dialogues on women's land and resource rights and to expand the cadre of champions advocating for women's land and resource rights in organizations.

**Land Sector:** ILRG II participated in dialogue on the establishment of a multi-stakeholder national dialogue platform on land in Zambia intended to unify and coordinate civil society advocacy voices. A steering committee was formed and a facilitator was appointed with the support of the regional National Land Coalition. ILRG II is working on the next steps to support this group in the context of the program budget and recent Mission buy-in.

**Community-based Natural Resource Management:** At the community level, CRBs continue to receive training on community governance, building on materials developed under ILRG. The DNPW and TNC have partnered with communities in Eastern Kafue as well as the North Luangwa Landscape to distribute governance tools and support gender inclusive elections. The DNPW has requested downscaling resources allocated to CRBs in order to support the needs of Village Actions Groups as well.

In the coming quarter, ILRG II will support the Annual National CBNRM Conference and begin structuring its collaboration with the Zambia Community Resources Board Association.

#### **4.2.3 Strengthen Community-based Wildlife, Forest, and Land Management**

ILRG II focuses on enhancing the capacity of customary governance structures and leadership to effectively plan and manage land and natural resources in customary areas.

**Traditional Leadership and Community Governance Capacity:** During the past year, ILRG II confirmed the interest of Zambia's traditional leaders to build on the Chalimbana Diploma in Traditional Leadership course supported under ILRG and continue to engage in capacity strengthening activities for traditional leaders, including chiefs who are adjacent to protected areas. The chiefs also confirmed their interest in developing a short induction course for their headpersons and advisors on good governance and land allocation. This work is progressing in cooperation with Chalimbana University, MLGRD and the House of Chiefs. A small group of chiefs has been established to help lead the development of the courses, which will include an induction course for all newly gazetted chiefs.

**Customary Land Administration:** Chiefs in Eastern Province continued to advocate for the use of customary land documentation and administration tools including the Zambia Customary Land Administration System (ZCLAS). NGOs around the country consolidated their support for the system and requested a few upgraded capacities (including offline data collection), which is under development. Chiefs Sandwe, Mkanda and Maguya continued to test their secretariat processes. ILRG II has launched a partnership with Chipata District Land Alliance to continue building the use case and experience with ZCLAS, which will feed into the MLNR dialogue with chiefs on customary land documentation and in the Land Act review at the national level.

**Land Use Planning:** ILRG II has partnered with TNC to support two chiefdoms (Musungwa and Shezongo) in Eastern Kafue to use the ILRG II data collection tools to develop a village land use plan (VLUP) within the Nkala GMA. ILRG II



*ILRG II GIS Specialist leads community enumerators through a data collection training for the Village Land Use Planning process in Itezhi Tezhi Chiefdom, Zambia. Credit: ILRG II.*

produced village maps and initiated dialogue with the local government on using the maps to support decision making. The VLUP is expected to enhance the effectiveness of community-led relationships and decision-making in the management of land and natural resources in the chiefdom. ILRG II has supported multi-stakeholder meetings as well as data collection. The VLUP process fosters multi-stakeholder dialogues and has the potential to be replicated in northern GMAs around Kafue National Park. Demand is currently heavy in Lunga Luswishi GMA given the impacts of migration on the landscape. ILRG II has initiated dialogue with Frankfurt Zoological Society for a similar collaboration in North Luangwa National Park.

## 5.0

# ID Hub



*Indigenous community leaders participated in focus group discussions with the IPARD evaluation team during the mid-term evaluation. Credit: ILRG II.*

## 5.1 Background & Objectives

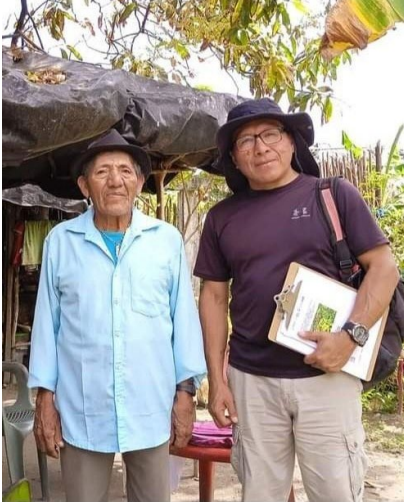
USAID’s ID Hub envisions a world without barriers, where all people—no matter their background, identity, age, or social status—shape their own development and that of their countries and societies. The ID Hub works to protect the rights, safety, well-being, and inclusion of underrepresented and marginalized groups. ILRG II engagement with the ID Hub supports USAID programming with IPs related to land and natural resource governance.

## 5.2 Technical Approach

### **IPARD Evaluation**

In Year 1, ILRG II completed a mid-term performance evaluation of IPARD to inform future USAID engagements with IP groups. IPARD is implemented by FSC-IF and was created through a public-private partnership between USAID and FSC. The project convenes multi-sector partners to secure IP rights, strengthen their capacity and catalyze economic self-development. The evaluation was led by a Tetra Tech Senior Associate in Environment and Natural Resources, with the support of two Indigenous advisors. The approach was highly participatory and served as a methodological example for participatory and inclusive evaluations.

In Q4, ILRG II prepared a full evaluation report, which was shared with FSC, USAID, FSC-IF, and IPARD for comments. The report included recommendations to IPARD and FSC-IF, as well as high-level recommendations to USAID to inform future engagement with IP groups. The evaluation team also presented findings and recommendations to key stakeholders, including



*IPARD research team traveled to project communities to interview key stakeholders about their experiences with the project to inform the mid-term evaluation. Credit: ILRG II.*

the USAID IP Working Group and the Deputy Director of the ID Hub. The final report was submitted in September 2024. The team is ready to support future presentations and discussions, as requested, to ensure that the evaluation findings are effectively shared.

### **FSC Indigenous Foundation Grant: One World Youth Conference**

With anticipated funding from the ID Hub, ILRG II awarded a grant to the FSC-IF to support the participation of global Indigenous youth in the 2024 OYW Summit. The collaboration with USAID, FSC-IF, and OYW is supporting Indigenous youth by empowering their leadership on strategic issues focused on the protection of their territories, including natural resources, culture, and governance systems.

The OYW summit convened youth leaders from around the world focused on social impact, and was held in Montreal, Canada in September 2024. In preparation for the summit, FSC-IF provided virtual networking, mentoring, capacity development, and logistical support to the Indigenous youth. FSC-IF staff accompanied the cohort to the summit to facilitate logistical and cross-cultural support including simultaneous language interpretation, and to encourage dialogue and exchange among participants. Building upon momentum from the summit, FSC-IF will continue engaging with the Indigenous youth leaders upon return to their communities, through the establishment of an Indigenous Youth Network Community of Practice designed to promote access to resources, guidance, and collaborations with other youth and strategic actors as they continue to advocate for their rights and contribute to the improvement of their communities and territories.

## 6.0

# GEWE Côte d'Ivoire



*Cocoa pods growing on a smallholder cocoa farm in Asankrangwa, Ghana. Credit: ILRG II.*

## 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 from 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 is continuing the partnership with ECOM to replicate the approach in Côte d'Ivoire, the largest cocoa producer in the world.

Supported by core funding from USAID Washington, the objectives of the activity are to:

1. Strengthen ECOM's capacity to integrate gender equality and women's empowerment into its core business operations.
2. Promote women's empowerment in ECOM's supply chain through increased access to resources and efforts to shift harmful gender norms.
3. Promote income diversification and economic resilience for women in cocoa communities (to be added in Year 2 subject to funding).

## 6.2 Technical Approach

During Q1, ILRG II initiated conversations with the ECOM Global Sustainability team about opportunities to further the partnership developed under the predecessor ILRG program to support GEWE in the cocoa value chain. In addition to scaling interventions in Ghana, discussed in Section 7 below, ECOM was interested in expanding GEWE work in their Cote d'Ivoire supply chain. Whereas in Ghana, ECOM staff provide farmer facing extension support services, in Cote d'Ivoire ECOM works through local exporters and cooperatives to provide direct farmer engagement. This represented an opportunity for USAID support to influence GESI responsive policies and practices across a number of stakeholders in the cocoa space in the country. During Q2, the ILRG II Senior GESI Specialist, in consultation with the ECOM Global and Cote d'Ivoire teams, developed a scope of work and budget for the activity, as well as a draft implementation plan based on learnings from the Ghana pilot. ILRG II finalized a subcontract with Zamacom, ECOM's legal entity in Cote d'Ivoire, in Q4, and the ILRG II Senior GESI Specialist and Zamacom Project Manager/GESI Specialist have set up bi-weekly coordination meetings to support ongoing implementation.

To inform and further refine the implementation approach, ILRG II carried out a baseline GESI analysis. During Q3, ILRG II drafted data collection tools, engaged local consultants to support both quantitative and qualitative data collection, and began an initial desk literature review to understand unique contextual gender dynamics in the Ivorian cocoa sector. ILRG II consulted with the USAID Improving Land Access for Women (ILAW) activity throughout this design process to ensure they incorporated ILAW learnings and identified areas for potential coordination and partnership. The consultants conducted data collection in two districts in Q4, and initial findings were shared with ILRG II at the end of September. The ILRG II Senior GESI Specialist will consolidate findings from the literature review, quantitative and qualitative data collection into a full GESI analysis report, to be shared with USAID in October 2024.

To support Objective 1, strengthen ECOM's GESI capacity, ILRG II engaged NGO Equal Origins who specializes in helping private sector companies in the cocoa and coffee sector better address gender equality in their supply chain. At a global level, ECOM has committed to having each of their cocoa sourcing origins complete Equal Origins' Gender Equality Index (GEI) by 2025 for a corporate benchmarking of GESI practices. In Q4, Zamacom completed the GEI, whose insights will be used to inform the ILRG II GESI analysis, as well as Zamacom's development of an organizational GESI Strategy and Roadmap in Year 2. This quarter, Equal Origins also began its 'Better Together' 12-week virtual workshop series, looking at how GESI considerations impact Zamacom's work across departments and practice areas. Workshop attendees include 7 Zamacom staff (3 women, 4 men), as well as 14 staff members (7 women, 7 men) from 3 cooperatives who work in activity districts. Workshop sessions will conclude in late October 2024.

## 7.0

# GECCA - Ghana



Shade tree nursery run by the Ghana Forest Commission in Asankrangwa. Credit: ILRG II.

## 7.1 Background & Objectives

Cocoa is Ghana's main export and key livelihood for rural farmers. Climate change effects are reducing yields and the sustainability of production, increasing risks of poverty, seasonal food insecurity, debt, and negative coping mechanisms in cocoa-dependent communities. The situation is more challenging for women due to structural barriers that limit their access to and control over cocoa production/income. Under the ILRG project, USAID supported two pilot activities in the cocoa sector in Ghana with private sector partner ECOM—one to reduce deforestation and greenhouse gas emissions and increase carbon sequestration in the cocoa landscape, and the second to increase GEWE in the cocoa value chain. Under ILRG II, USAID is merging these two work streams into a broader gender-inclusive agroforestry program to increase women's empowerment, promote climate mitigation, and incentivize reforestation in Ghana. With funding from USAID GEEA Fund, a private sector company through its nature based solutions investment fund, and ECOM in-kind support, the GECCA activity aims to:

1. Shift harmful gender norms around women's participation in cocoa production (USAID GEEA Priority 5); and
2. Increase income and livelihood resilience to climate change in cocoa communities (USAID GEEA Priority 3).

## 7.2 Technical Approach

During Q1, ILRG II initiated conversations with the ECOM Global Sustainability team about opportunities to further the partnership developed under the predecessor ILRG program to support GEWE in the cocoa value chain in Ghana. In parallel, USAID approached ILRG II with an initial concept for merging the payment for ecosystem services (PES) and GEWE pilot activities under ILRG into a scaled up gender-responsive agroforestry activity. USAID proposed leveraging private sector financing to help plant and maintain 900,000 shade trees on cocoa farms, with the goal of delivering climate change mitigation, forest restoration, and livelihood co-benefits. USAID financing would be used to support GESI integration, ensuring agroforestry training, extension support, and PES payment modalities allowed women, men, youth, abunu farmers, and other vulnerable populations to benefit. ILRG II helped USAID prepare a successful application to the internal USAID GEEA Incentive Fund in Q2, securing \$4 million for the proposed four year activity. USAID also approached a private sector company about co-financing this work through its nature based solutions investment fund in exchange for the ability to register and retire any generated carbon removal credits to report against its corporate emission reductions targets.

During Q3, the ILRG II GECCA activity lead and Tetra Tech forest carbon technical specialist conducted a scoping visit to Ghana with the ECOM Global Sustainability team. The group visited PES pilot sites and held focus group discussions with farmers to discuss initial assumptions about tree density, payment size, tenure considerations, and the impact of rising cocoa prices on activity feasibility. Farmers were largely positive about the pilot activity, and suggested that ILRG II's initial concept for the new activity would be viewed as beneficial by farmers. However, they noted that uptake may be slow at first, as farmers have seen other PES projects fail to deliver on payments in recent years. These findings informed further design conversations between ILRG II and ECOM, identifying proposed activity sites, the number of farmers/villages that could potentially be reached, and overlap between target populations for gender-norms dialogues and agroforestry/shade tree planting activities.



*Cocoa farmer in Asankrangwa, Ghana holds up a cocoa pod on one of the PES pilot activity supported farms. Credit: ILRG II.*

ILRG II prepared an initial feasibility report for the private sector funder in Q2, outlining activity design elements, a financial model for USAID and private sector funding, and carbon sequestration estimates. The third party organization that manages the private sector company's investment fund indicated initial interest in the proposal, and asked ILRG II and ECOM to develop a full feasibility assessment, aligned with eventual requirements for the Project Development Document and registration on the voluntary carbon markets, as well as a revised financial model, to inform the next steps in the due diligence process to secure funding. ILRG II issued a request for proposals for the feasibility assessment in late Q3, which USAID and ECOM agreed to cost share. In addition, ILRG II also engaged a Ghanaian law firm to conduct a legal

analysis to assess activity alignment with the Ghanaian legal framework around carbon rights, and required steps for government registration of new carbon generating projects. During Q4, ILRG II received proposals for the feasibility assessment and negotiated a scope of work with the preferred firm, including an examination of the potential of adding a reforestation component to the work to reduce costs and increase carbon sequestration. Pending USAID Ghana concurrence, this analysis will be completed in Year 2 Q1 and combine desk research, in-person interviews, community consultations, and geo-spatial analysis to advise ILRG II on the feasibility of its approach, alignment with voluntary carbon market and Ghana carbon market regulations, risks and mitigation measures. The outputs of this analysis will be shared with the third-party organization, and ILRG II aims to secure an initial terms of reference sheet with the funder by the end of the calendar year.

In addition to analyses required by the private sector funder, ILRG II also conducted a GESI analysis to inform USAID investments and activity design. The analysis built upon an earlier GESI [assessment](#) under the pilot activity in 2021, focusing on new areas of work including barriers and opportunities for women in agroforestry, green jobs, and carbon benefit sharing schemes. ILRG II hired a local gender consultant to conduct focus group discussions and key informant interviews in two proposed activity communities, and ECOM field agents supported quantitative data collection. These findings will be combined with a desk-based literature review in a full GESI analysis report to be shared with USAID in November 2024. Findings will be used to refine activity design and inform the implementation plan. The activity will also benefit from baseline data collection for the impact evaluation USAID is funding in Year 2, Q1 or Q2.

## 8.0

# Environmental Defenders



The paramount chief holds up USAID “Know Your Land Rights” banner during the adoption of community land by-laws in Boinsen Chiefdom, Liberia under predecessor ILRG project. Credit: FCI.

## 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. IPs, 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 IPs, 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 released an RFA for the grants facility on May 1, which was posted publicly and announced by USAID. ILRG II also shared the announcement widely via newsletters, social media, project partners, and networks of those working in the IP and environmental defenders space. To encourage inclusive participation of local and non-traditional partners and facilitate a co-creation and capacity development process, ILRG II published the RFA in English, French, Portuguese, and Spanish, accepted concept papers in all four languages, and solicited applications through a two-phased process. In the first phase, 130 applicants from Latin America & the Caribbean, Asia, and Sub-Saharan Africa submitted brief concept notes, which were due on June 1 and were reviewed by the ILRG II Merit Review Committee. In the second phase, ILRG II invited short-listed applicants to participate in virtual application workshops and submit full applications. ILRG II received and reviewed eight full applications in August 2024, and the project anticipates award of the first tranche of environmental defenders grants in early Year 2.

ILRG II expects to award at least four grants of between \$150,000 to \$300,000 each for organization working in regions and countries with a high level of threat to environmental defenders' groups and their territories; the final number and value of the grants will depend on the quality and potential impact of the applications received, and are subject to Mission concurrence with the proposed recipients and activities. The grant terms will be 18 to 36 months, though this may vary depending on each proposed activity's scope and objectives.

## 9.0

# Green Cities/Adaptation



*ILRG II consultants carried out community consultations outside of Lilongwe, Malawi as part of an in-depth scenario analysis to determine site feasibility for the Green Cities/Adaptation pilot project implementation. Credit: ILRG II.*

## 9.1 Background & Objectives

Urban expansion is putting increasing pressure on governments to manage development, protect ecosystems, and provide essential services amidst rapid population growth and migration. In many cases, this growth occurs in areas vulnerable to climate impacts—such as floods and landslides—in informal settlements that lack resilient infrastructure or on environmentally sensitive land that should be protected from development. In Malawi, the cities of Lilongwe, Blantyre, and Zomba are expanding rapidly, with their areas expected to more than double by 2050. These cities face significant risks, including flooding from extreme precipitation, loss of tree cover, blocked drainage systems, construction on landslide-prone slopes, heat island effects, and droughts.

This activity aims to enhance cities' and communities' capacity to respond to climate change by increasing transparency in urban planning, engaging communities in GESI-responsive planning, and strengthening local capacity to deliver urban and peri-urban land services. The pilot project will develop a replicable methodology for citywide planning that identifies areas for expansion and 'no build' zones. It will also mark rights-of-way for arterial roads to guide development away from sensitive areas and introduce a climate-resilient, GESI-responsive voluntary land pooling and subdivision scheme. In a selected pilot area, landholders will work with traditional authorities to create an equitable neighborhood level land subdivision plan, resulting in secure land tenure and increased land value.

## 9.2 Technical Approach

In Year I, ILRG II focused on designing and researching a pilot to support climate-resilient urban expansion in Malawi. Working with partner Global Land Alliance, ILRG II developed a concept note centered on improving land use planning, securing property rights, and boosting revenue generation for resilient infrastructure. Discussions were initiated with USAID and the Government of Malawi, and feedback on the concept was submitted.



*Community members outside of Lilongwe participate in community consultation meeting about proposed land pooling activity. Credit: ILRG II.*

In Q2, ILRG II began designing a scenario analysis to assess the legal feasibility of the pilot, examining land tenure frameworks, GESI considerations, and climate vulnerability in areas identified by the government. These findings will guide site selection and implementation.

In Q3, ILRG II hosted a launch meeting in Lilongwe with government representatives and traditional leaders to introduce the scenario analysis and discuss the project's potential to shape urban land tenure policies. The government expressed interest in scaling the pilot's land pooling methodology across other cities.

In Q4, the team gathered qualitative and quantitative data from six peri-urban areas in Lilongwe, Blantyre, and Zomba, through focus group discussions, household surveys, and climate vulnerability assessments. Traditional authorities and local communities discussed urban expansion pressures, while spatial climate data analysis began to support site selection. The scenario analysis is set to be finalized in Year 2 Q1.

# 10.0

## Research and Learning



*Under predecessor ILRG project, USAID worked with PepsiCo to promote women's economic empowerment in potato supply chains. ILRG II helped draft a GESI analysis during Year 1 to continue to support USAID work with the private sector to promote gender-incl*

### 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.

### 10.2 Technical Approach

**Ethiopia Cluster Farm Literature Review:** USAID and the Ethiopia Mission 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 engaged a team from the Tetra Tech agricultural practice to conduct a literature review, which was well received by both USAID Washington and the Mission. This activity is complete.

**LRG Private Sector Engagement Framework:** The USAID team drafted a framework outlining the division's approach to private sector engagement based on learnings from past programs including ILRG. ILRG II provided comments on the draft framework to inform finalization of the approach. This activity is complete.

**Linkages between LRG and Food Security:** USAID asked ILRG II to develop a set of talking points on LRG impacts on food security and agriculture. ILRG II prepared initial draft talking points which USAID reviewed. USAID plans to provide feedback and potentially expand the task scope to include the development of talking points on linkages between LRG and other development objectives in Year 2.

**GenDev Gender Analysis of Agricultural Supply Chains:** ILRG II conducted an analysis for GenDev on the barriers and opportunities for gender equality and women's empowerment in the agriculture sector, with a focus on private sector engagement. The ILRG II Senior GESI Specialist led the analysis with core team support on a background literature review. The team submitted a final analysis to GenDev with positive feedback. This activity is complete.

**Valuation of Community Carbon Assets:** The Asian Development Bank (ADB) invited USAID to provide comments on its draft standard on land acquisition and land use restrictions (ESS 5) to suggest how community carbon assets could be accounted for in compensation and relocation decisions. An ILRG II consultant led the work and prepared a report outlining strengths and weaknesses of the current standard, and recommendations for improvement to inform USAID's response to ADB. The consultant presented their findings at a brown bag to USAID in September 2024. This activity is complete.

**Performance Standards:** ILRG II conducted a review of how [USAID's 2016 Guidelines on Compulsory Displacement and Resettlement in USAID Programming](#) compared to other multilateral development banks' guidance. Gaps were identified and recommendations made for adjustments to USAID's approach. Alongside that comparative analysis, a Tetra Tech environmental and social impact assessment expert drafted an outline for a Mandatory ADS Reference on the social impacts of changes to land tenure or natural resource use or access. The project expects to draft the ADS reference and update the 2016 Guidelines in Year 2.

# 11.0

## Communications and Events



ILRG II facilitated a panel on “Customary and Statutory Land Administration Challenges in the Era of Climate Change: Voices from the Grassroots” with panelists from Ghana, Madagascar, and DRC at the World Bank Land Conference in Washington, DC in May 2024

### 11.1 Communications

With most activities in start-up and design phases in Year I, ILRG II communications efforts focused on key international celebration days and events. In Q2, 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. In Q3, ILRG II communications centered around the World Bank Land Conference from May 13-17. Tetra Tech prepared a week of social media content to highlight ILRG II led panels on [X](#), [Facebook](#), and [LinkedIn](#). ILRG II also launched its [Environmental Defenders Grant Solicitation](#) this quarter, which was announced by USAID’s Gillian Caldwell at a World Resources Institute event, and posted on [X](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

### 11.2 Events

World Bank Land Conference (May 13-17, 2024): ILRG II facilitated three panels at the 2024 World Bank Land Conference: 1) Integrating Land Policy Implementation–Cross Ministerial Coordination and Barriers to Securing Land Rights for Development; 2) The Role of Gender Transformative Approaches for Securing Tenure Rights for Sustainability: Lessons Learned from Comparative Research and Practice; and 3) Customary and Statutory Land Administration Challenges in the Era of Climate Change: Voices from the Grassroots. Panelists included 17 representatives from USAID, government, traditional leaders, civil society, international



*ILRG II facilitated a panel on women's land rights at the World Bank Land Conference with panelists sharing experiences from Tanzania, Zambia, Côte d'Ivoire, and Cambodia. Credit: ILRG II.*

researchers, and implementing partners from Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Madagascar, Malawi, Republic of Congo, and Zambia.

**USAID Land Forward (May 17, 2024):** ILRG II and New America facilitated the re-launch of the USAID LRG implementing partners meeting, held alongside the World Bank Land Conference. With around 45 participants from USAID, implementing partners, NGOs, the private sector, and research organizations in the land space, the event followed an 'unconference' model, with participants in the room proposing topics for three break-out sessions. Topics discussed included artificial intelligence and land rights, combating land corruption,

working with spiritual leaders to secure Indigenous territories, environmental refugees, critical minerals and the new green economy, and data security and ownership of local communities. ILRG II plans to facilitate bi-annual Land Partners meetings moving forward.

**USAID 2024 Global Gender Equality Conference (May 20-23, 2024):** ILRG II Senior GESI Specialist Thais Bessa and Zambia Country Coordinator/GESI Specialist Patricia Malasha participated in the USAID 2024 Global Gender Conference in Washington DC in May. The conference was attended by approximately 350 people, including gender officers and focal points from USAID Missions across the world, and focused on locally-led, intersectional, and transformative approaches. ILRG II presented in the session "Shifting Harmful Gender Norms to Strengthen Women's Land Rights and Economic Security," alongside Safiatu Alabi, Deputy Chief of Party for the ILAW Activity.

**Social Norms Learning Collaborative Webinar on Gender Norms (May 30, 2024):** ILRG II Senior GESI Specialist Thais Bessa was featured on a panel, moderated by USAID LRG's Janet Nackoney, on USAID's work to address gender norms around women's land rights with the Social Norms Learning Collaborative. The webinar had about 80 in attendance and a lively chat and Q&A session with attendees from NGOs, research institutions, and implementing partners from around the world.

**Zambia SLOA Presentation to USAID NCS (July 3, 2024):** ILRG II Technical Specialist Matt Sommerville gave a virtual presentation on outcomes of the SLOA for Zambia to the USAID NCS team in Washington. The SLOA presents an assessment of land-based greenhouse gas emissions mitigation opportunities in Zambia, with an aim to support decision-making for prioritizing sustainable landscape investments. The report emphasized that effective land and resource governance is crucial for climate mitigation efforts, particularly in the forest sector.

# ANNEX I

## Project-specific Performance Indicators

ILRG II's MEL Plan was approved in Year I, Quarter 3, including 23 global indicators that ILRG II will seek to report on across country activities, as well as a number of activity specific indicators.

N°	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	COUNTRY	BASE LINE	YI TARGET	YI Q1	YI Q2	YI Q3	YI Q4	YI ACTUAL	LOP ACTUAL	NOTES
<b>Global Indicators</b>											
16	Percent of USG-assisted organizations with improved performance. [CBLD-9]	<b>Global</b> Zambia	<b>0</b> 0	<b>100%</b> 100%	Annual Indicator				<b>0</b> 0	<b>0</b> 0	ILRG II began to build organizational capacity for 13 orgs during Year I. While this work has begun, systematic measurement of improvements has not yet taken place. This exercise will be carried out in Year 2 with partner orgs. ILRG II did observe improvements in organizational structure among the WLR Platform, which officially incorporated into its own registered organization, NthakaChuma, in Zambia in September 2024.
20	Value (\$) of non-donor resources mobilized for local development priorities. [CBLD-10]	<b>Global</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>TBD</b>	Annual Indicator				<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	Nothing to report for Year I. This indicator has not yet been aligned with any ILRG II activities.
13	Number of organizations pursuing their own performance improvement priorities with USG capacity strengthening support. [CBLD-11]	<b>Global</b> Zambia IP-Youth	<b>0</b> 0 0	<b>19</b> 19 0	Annual Indicator				<b>13</b> 13 0	<b>13</b> 13 0	Captures 9 CRBs who received governance training support through ILRG II and TNC this year. Also includes 2 chiefdoms, Shezongo and Musungwa, who received capacity strengthening support to carry out VLUP process in their areas. Includes 2 NGOs, TNC and the WLR Platform, who ILRG II has provided long term coaching and technical assistance on GESI integration during YI.

N°	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	COUNTRY	BASE LINE	YI TARGET	YI Q1	YI Q2	YI Q3	YI Q4	YI ACTUAL	LOP ACTUAL	NOTES
23	Value of new private sector investment leveraged by the USG to support food security and nutrition. [EG.3.1-15]	<b>Global</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>TBD</b>	Annual Indicator				<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	Nothing to report for Year I. This indicator has not yet been aligned with any ILRG II activities.
19	Number of private sector firms that have improved management practices or technologies as a result of USG assistance. [EG.5.2-2]	<b>Global</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>TBD</b>	Annual Indicator				<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	Nothing to report for Year I. This indicator has not yet been aligned with any ILRG II activities.
3	Number of hectares of biologically significant areas under improved natural resource management as a result of USG assistance. [EG.10.2-2]	<b>Global</b> Zambia	<b>0</b> 0	<b>1,621,359</b> 1,621,359	<b>0</b> 0	<b>0</b> 0	<b>1,091,468</b> 1,091,468	<b>522,282</b> 522,282	<b>1,613,750</b> 1,613,750	<b>1,613,750</b> 1,613,750	Includes 2 new chiefdoms this quarter (Siachitema and Nyawa) in Zambia using ILRG developed CRB governance materials to improve natural resource governance and adaptive management.
9	Number of people trained in sustainable natural resources management and/or biodiversity conservation as a result of USG assistance. [EG.10.2-4]	<b>Global</b> Zambia	<b>0</b> 0	<b>105</b> 105	<b>0</b> 0	<b>0</b> 0	<b>84</b> 84	<b>53</b> 53	<b>137</b> 137	<b>137</b> 137	One CRB Governance Training workshop held in Kafue landscapes in Zambia this quarter. Training materials and curriculum supported by ILRG II, training implemented by government. Attended by 7 women and 18 men. ILRG II and TNC trained enumerators, made up of 13 women and 15 men, to support VLUP data collection in Shezongo and Musungwa Chiefdoms.
5	Number of laws, policies, or regulations that address biodiversity conservation and/or other environmental themes officially proposed, adopted or implemented as a result of USG assistance. [EG.10.2-5]	<b>Global</b> Zambia	<b>0</b> 0	<b>3</b> 3	Annual Indicator				<b>3</b> 3	<b>3</b> 3	Supported the approval and launch of the Zambia CBNRM Policy and the drafting and consultation on the Zambia National Forest Policy and Wildlife and Protected Area Bill.
4	Number of specific pieces of land tenure and property rights legislation or implementing regulations proposed, adopted, and/or implemented positively affecting property rights of the urban and/or rural poor as a	<b>Global</b> Zambia	<b>0</b> 0	<b>3</b> 3	Annual Indicator				<b>0</b> 0	<b>0</b> 0	Nothing to count for this year. Anticipated support on the Customary Land Bill, implementation of the Land Act, and drafting of Forestry Act. Forestry Act planned for after the Forestry Policy consultation. Held meetings with

N°	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	COUNTRY	BASE LINE	YI TARGET	YI Q1	YI Q2	YI Q3	YI Q4	YI ACTUAL	LOP ACTUAL	NOTES
	result of USG assistance. [EG.10.4-1]										traditional leaders on Customary Land Bill, but no appetite for government engagement yet.
2	Number of parcels with relevant parcel information corrected or incorporated into an official land administration system as a result of USG assistance. [EG.10.4-5]	Global Zambia	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	No new parcels recorded this quarter. ZCLAS continues to receive new applications for subsequent land transactions, but none have yet reached the stage of approval and certificate generation. Additional land documentation work with CDLA to begin next quarter.
1	Number of adults provided with legally recognized and documented tenure rights to land or marine areas, as a result of USG assistance. [EG.10.4-7]	Global Zambia	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	No new land rights recorded this quarter. ZCLAS continues to receive new applications for subsequent land transactions, but none have yet reached the stage of approval and certificate generation. Additional land documentation work with CDLA to begin next quarter.
11	Number of people trained in climate change adaptation supported by USG assistance. [EG.11-1]	Global	0	TBD	0	0	0	0	0	0	Nothing to report for Year I. This indicator has not yet been aligned with any ILRG II activities.
15	Number of institutions with improved capacity to assess or address climate change risks supported by USG assistance. [EG.11-2]	Global	0	TBD	Annual Indicator				0	0	Nothing to report for Year I. This indicator has not yet been aligned with any ILRG II activities.
7	Number of laws, policies, regulations, or standards addressing climate change adaptation formally proposed, adopted, or implemented as supported by USG assistance. [EG.11-3]	Global	0	TBD	Annual Indicator				0	0	Nothing to report for Year I. This indicator has not yet been aligned with any ILRG II activities.
22	Amount of investment mobilized (in USD) for climate change adaptation as supported by USG assistance. [EG.11-4]	Global	0	TBD	Annual Indicator				0	0	Nothing to report for Year I. This indicator has not yet been aligned with any ILRG II activities.

N°	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	COUNTRY	BASE LINE	YI TARGET	YI Q1	YI Q2	YI Q3	YI Q4	YI ACTUAL	LOP ACTUAL	NOTES
10	Number of people trained in sustainable landscapes supported by USG assistance. [EG.13-1]	Global Zambia	0 0	14 14	0 0	0 0	0 0	28 28	28 28	28 28	Enumerator training for VLUP data collection held this quarter with 13 women and 15 men from Shezongo and Musungwa CRBs.
14	Number of institutions with improved capacity to address sustainable landscapes issues as supported by USG assistance. [EG.13-2]	Global Zambia	0 0	2 2	Annual Indicator				0 0	0 0	2 chiefdoms were supported to carry out VLUP process towards the end of Year 1. As these chiefdoms have just begun the process, improved capacity has not yet been observed. ILRG II will continue support into Year 2, when we hope to count these two chiefdoms for this indicator.
6	Number of laws, policies, regulations, or standards addressing sustainable landscapes formally proposed, adopted, or implemented as supported by USG assistance. [EG.13-3]	Global Zambia	0 0	3 3	Annual Indicator				2 2	2 2	Supported the approval and launch of the Zambia CBNRM Policy and the drafting and consultation on the Zambia National Forest Policy. Anticipated also supporting Forestry Act, but now planned for after Forestry Policy consultation complete.
21	Amount of investment mobilized (in USD) for sustainable landscapes as supported by USG assistance. [EG.13-4]	Global Ghana	0 0	\$0 \$0	Annual Indicator				\$0 \$0	\$0 \$0	Nothing to report for Year 1. Conversations are ongoing with private sector funder to support Ghana agroforestry work.
8	Number of legal instruments drafted, proposed or adopted with USG assistance designed to promote gender equality or non-discrimination against women or girls at the national or sub-national level. [GNDR-1]	Global Zambia	0 0	1 1	Annual Indicator				1 1	1 1	Supported drafting and consultation on Zambia Wildlife and Protected Areas Act.
17	Percentage of female participants in USG-assisted programs designed to increase access to productive economic resources (assets, credit, income, or employment). [GNDR-2]	Global CIV Ghana Zambia	0 0 0 0	90% 90% 0% 0%	Annual Indicator				0% 0% 0% 0%	0% 0% 0% 0%	Nothing to report for Year 1. Implementation delayed in Cote d'Ivoire, targets shifted to Year 2.

N°	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	COUNTRY	BASE LINE	YI TARGET	YI Q1	YI Q2	YI Q3	YI Q4	YI ACTUAL	LOP ACTUAL	NOTES
12	Number of persons trained with USG assistance to advance outcomes consistent with gender equality or female empowerment through their roles in public or private sector institutions or organizations. [GNDR-8]	Global CIV Ghana Zambia	0 0 0 0	57 25 0 32	0 0 0 0	36 0 0 36	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	36 0 0 36	36 0 0 36	No new trainings to add this quarter. Y1 total counts Women's Land Rights Advocacy/Stand for Her Land Workshop in Q2 for Zambia. Cote d'Ivoire implementation delayed; trainings with Zamacom staff on gender planned for next quarter.
18	Percentage of participants who are youth (15-29) in USG-assisted programs designed to increase access to productive economic resources. [YOUTH-3]	Global	0	TBD	Annual Indicator				0	0	Nothing to report for Year I. This indicator has not yet been aligned with any ILRG II activities.
<b>Country Specific Indicators</b>											
24	Total number of clients benefitting from financial services provided through USG-assisted financial intermediaries, including non-financial institutions or actors. [EG.4.2-1]	CIV Ghana	0 0	450 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	Implementation of the livelihoods component in Cote d'Ivoire has been delayed until Year 2 pending funding discussions with USAID. Implementation in Ghana is set to begin in Year 2.
25	Percentage of participants reporting increased agreement with the concept that males and females should have equal access to social, economic, and political resources and opportunities. [GNDR-4]	CIV Ghana	90% TBD	+10% +10%	Baseline/Endline				90% TBD	90% TBD	Baseline figures from Cote d'Ivoire GESI assessment showed that 91% of women and 89% of men agree that women and men should have equal economic, social and political rights. Ghana baseline figures expected in October 2024, to be added next quarter.
26	Number of people receiving livelihood co-benefits (monetary or non-monetary) associated with the implementation of USG sustainable landscapes activities. [EG.13-5]	Ghana	0	0	Annual Indicator				0	0	Nothing to report for Year I. Implementation in Ghana is set to begin in Year 2.
27	Projected greenhouse gas emissions reductions reduced or avoided through 2030 from adopted laws, policies,	Ghana	0	0	Annual Indicator				0	0	Nothing to report for Year I. Implementation in Ghana is set to begin in Year 2.

N°	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	COUNTRY	BASE LINE	YI TARGET	YI Q1	YI Q2	YI Q3	YI Q4	YI ACTUAL	LOP ACTUAL	NOTES
	regulations or technologies related to sustainable landscapes support by USG assistance. [EG.13-7]										
28	Number of people using climate information or implementing risk-reducing actions to improve resilience to climate change as supported by USG assistance. [EG.11-6]	Ghana	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Nothing to report for Year 1. Implementation in Ghana is set to begin in Year 2.
29	Number of hectares under improved management expected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as a result of USG assistance. [EG.13-8]	Ghana	0	0	Annual Indicator				0	0	Nothing to report for Year 1. Implementation in Ghana is set to begin in Year 2.
30	Number of individuals participating in GEEA funded activities. [CUSTOM]	Ghana	0	0	Annual Indicator				0	0	Nothing to report for Year 1. Implementation in Ghana is set to begin in Year 2.
31	Number of human rights defenders trained and supported [DR.6.1-2]	IP-Youth	0	15	0	0	0	15	15	15	15 Indigenous leaders (10 women, 5 men; 10 youth (age 15-29), 5 adults (age 30-35)) attended the One World Youth conference in Canada in September 2022 under the FSC-IF grant. Participants were provided with mentorship and training before the conference and connections and translation support during the event. These youth will form a community of practice to help coordinate actions in their own communities after September.

# ANNEX 2

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## Success Story

# ILRG II SUPPORTS COMMUNITY CONSULTATION ON CBNRM AND CONSERVATION LAWS IN ZAMBIA



One of ILRG II's comparative advantages in Zambia is long standing relationships with land and conservation stakeholders across government, traditional leadership, NGOs, private sector and communities. ILRG II (and predecessor programs ILRG and TGCC) have provided training, capacity strengthening, and coordination platforms to help support a robust community based natural resource management (CRNRM) sector in the country. Given the trust ILRG II has built across these groups, the project has been able to support community consultation processes to solicit feedback on a suite of new conservation laws in 2024.

In April, the government launched the long-awaited CBNRM Policy aimed at promoting an integrated coordination approach across natural resource governance in the country. USAID played a critical role in the policy development process—ILRG/ILRG II supported the community consultation process, bringing together community and traditional leader input to inform the final policy development, and the Business Enabling Project supported the policy launch. In August, ILRG II facilitated a validation workshop for the draft National Forest Policy, with 150 stakeholders in attendance from all 10 provinces, representing government ministries, NGOs, the private sector, traditional authorities, and communities. The workshop included discussion of the draft policy and alignment on the new policy measures outlined in the Zambia Decentralization Policy of 2023, which decentralized natural resource management to Zambia's 116 districts to promote better management of forestry resources and direct greater benefit flows to local communities. In September, ILRG II facilitated a community consultation workshop on the draft Wildlife and Protected Area Bill with 11 chiefs, 15 CRB chairpersons, and 9 Zambia Community Resources Board Association staff from across nine provinces.

Improved natural resource management is critical for achieving biodiversity and conservation goals, responding to climate change, and developing economic opportunities for communities through the sustainable use of forestry and wildlife resources. ILRG II supports inclusive policy development by encouraging broad stakeholder consultations to promote good governance and participatory decision-making to improve community voice and influence at the national level.

# ANNEX 3

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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:

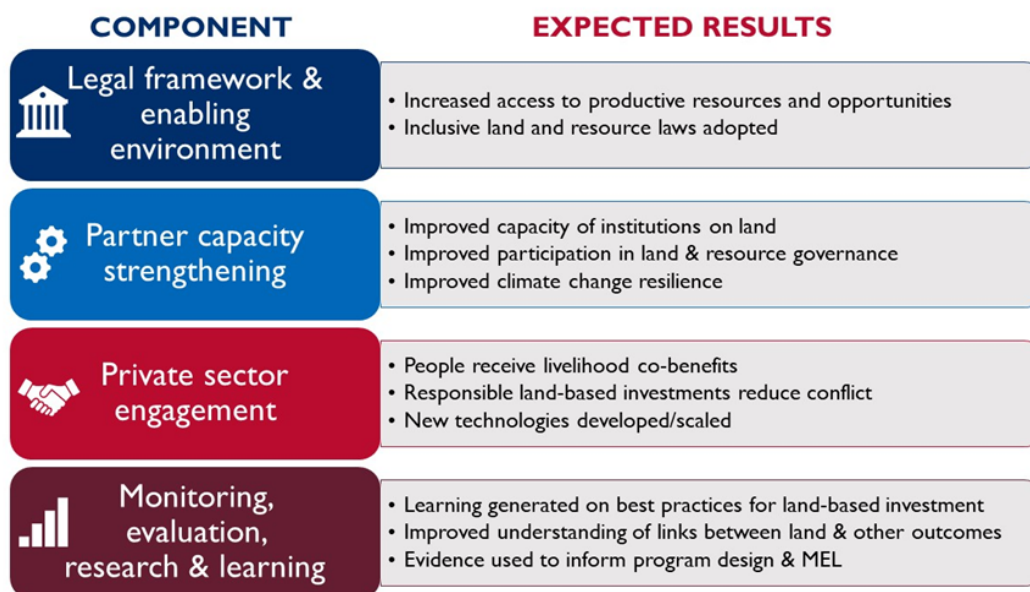
- Empowering women, IPs, youth, and marginalized or underrepresented groups;
- Advancing inclusive climate action and nature-based solutions;
- Conserving biodiversity;
- Strengthening sustainable food and agro-ecological systems;
- Promoting responsible land-based investing and innovation;
- Mitigating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

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# ANNEX 4

## 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>	ILRG II produced an initial fact sheet for the project, posted on LandLinks.
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.
Launch of CBNRM Policy in Zambia	Zambia	4/25/24	<a href="https://www.mot.gov.zm/?p=3483">https://www.mot.gov.zm/?p=3483</a>	ILRG II and Mission attended launch of CBNRM Policy with Ministry of Tourism. Launch promoted on <a href="#">Facebook</a> by Ministry of Tourism.
Gillian Caldwell promotion Environmental Defenders RFA	Global	5/6/24	<a href="https://tetrattech.my.site.com/ard/s/solicitation/a0MUP000000RneC2AS/ilrg-iirfa001?language=en_US">https://tetrattech.my.site.com/ard/s/solicitation/a0MUP000000RneC2AS/ilrg-iirfa001?language=en_US</a>	ILRG II launched its Environmental Defenders grant solicitation this quarter. Gillian Caldwell announced grant opportunity at May 2 event with World Resources Institute and posted on <a href="#">X</a> and <a href="#">LinkedIn</a> .
WBLC Land Conference #LandMatters Newsletter	Global	5/7/24	email	ILRG II panels featured in LRG LandMatters newsletter ahead of World Bank Land Conference. Included link to ILRG Gender Norms report, Environmental Defenders RFA, and Natural Climate Solutions brief.
Tetra Tech promotion WBLC 2024	Global	5/10/24 - 5/14/24	Social media	Tetra Tech promoted ILRG II participation in the World Bank

Title	Country	Date	Location (Link)	Notes/Dissemination
				Land Conference throughout the week: Intro post 1: <a href="#">X</a> , <a href="#">Facebook</a> , <a href="#">LinkedIn</a> Cross-Ministry Coordination Panel: <a href="#">X</a> , <a href="#">Facebook</a> , <a href="#">LinkedIn</a> Intro post 2: <a href="#">X</a> , <a href="#">Facebook</a> , <a href="#">LinkedIn</a> Land Administration and Climate Change Panel: <a href="#">X</a> , <a href="#">Facebook</a> , <a href="#">LinkedIn</a> GESI Panel: <a href="#">X</a> , <a href="#">Facebook</a> , <a href="#">LinkedIn</a> (reposted by GenDev on X)
Gillian Caldwell promotion of USAID presence at WBLC	Global	5/16/24	<a href="https://x.com/CaldwellUSAID/status/1791440150158868824">https://x.com/CaldwellUSAID/status/1791440150158868824</a>	X post included a link to ILRG II Environmental Defenders grant opportunity.
ILRG II Gender Noms presentation at Learning Collaborative Webinar	Global	5/30/24	<a href="https://www.alignplatform.org/events/gendered-social-norms-affecting-equitable-land-governance-findings-3-norms-shifting">https://www.alignplatform.org/events/gendered-social-norms-affecting-equitable-land-governance-findings-3-norms-shifting</a>	Link to webinar recording, facilitated by LRG's Janet Nackoney, where ILRG II Senior Gender Advisor Thais Bessa presented on our work to address gender norms around women's land rights in Ghana, India, Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia.
ILRG II Madagascar WBLC participation highlighted in La Verite Magazine	Madagascar	6/6/24	<a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1WaQus9TobKd5XICr5TgwEMb-9sNcOPoi/view?usp=sharing">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1WaQus9TobKd5XICr5TgwEMb-9sNcOPoi/view?usp=sharing</a>	Madagascar delegation forwarded a write up on their participation in WBLC 2024 from Malagasy print publication La Verite.



*Community members in Itezhi Tezhi, Zambia participate in VLUP data collector training, led by TNC and ILRG II. Credit: ILRG II.*

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