

## #LandMatters — World Bank Land Conference 2024 Special Edition



Welcome to a special edition of *#LandMatters*, a publication that spotlights research critical to advancing our land and resource governance work. This newsletter comes ahead of the [2024 World Bank Land Conference](#), held in Washington, DC, from May 13 to 17. We are excited to reconvene after four years away due to the global pandemic, and we are looking forward to the many presentations, conversations, and connections at the conference.

This edition previews ways to engage with us at the World Bank Conference, including at presentations throughout the week and at our atrium booth on Tuesday (5/17) and Wednesday (5/18). It also spotlights some recent USAID Land and Resource Governance (LRG) Division research and programming.

# Connect with Us at the World Bank Land Conference

USAID and our partners are presenting at a number of sessions in the [Thematic Track](#) and the [Research Track](#) at the World Bank Land Conference, including:

## Monday, May 13

- Global Land Governance and Policy Forum, State of Land (1:00 p.m. - 1:45 p.m. EDT, Preston)
  - Karol Boudreaux, Senior Land and Resource Governance Advisor, USAID/Washington
- Ensuring that the Greening Economy is Just for the Land Holders (3:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. EDT, MC 2-800)
  - Co-Organized by USAID Land and Resource Governance Division

## Tuesday, May 14

- Do Institutional Design and State Capacity Affect Demand for Property Title and Sustainability? (10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. EDT, MC 8-100)
  - Yuliya Panfil, Land and Resource Governance Lead on USAID's Integrated Natural Resource Management Activity
- Integrated Land Policy Implementation – Cross Ministerial Coordination and Barriers to Securing Land Rights for Development (11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. EDT, MC 4-800)
  - Matt Sommerville, Land and Resource Governance Specialist on USAID's Integrated Land and Resource Governance II Activity
- Unlocking Community Resilience: An Integrated Approach to Climate Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction (11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. EDT, MC 2-800)
  - Karol Boudreaux, Senior Land and Resource Governance Advisor, USAID/Washington

## Wednesday, May 15

- Customary and Statutory Land Administration Challenges in the Era of Climate Change: Voices from the Grassroots (11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. EDT, MC 2-800)
  - Mark Freudenberger, Land and Resource Governance Specialist on USAID's Integrated Land and Resource Governance II Activity
- Innovative Approaches to Unlock Rural and Indigenous Women's Land Rights for Sustainable Development (4 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. EDT, Preston)
  - Thais Bessa, Senior Gender and Social Inclusion Advisor on USAID's Integrated Land and Resource Governance II Activity

## Thursday, May 16

- Securing Forest Tenure - Strengthening Multi-Stakeholder Action Panel 1 (9 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. EDT, Preston)

- Gillian Caldwell, Chief Climate Officer and Deputy Assistant Administrator, USAID/Washington
- Securing Forest Tenure - Strengthening Multi-Stakeholder Action Panel 2 (10:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. EDT, Preston)
  - Karol Boudreaux, Senior Land and Resource Governance Advisor, USAID/Washington
- Securing Women’s Land Rights for a More Livable Planet (2 p.m. - 3:45 p.m. EDT, MC 2-800)
  - Karol Boudreaux, Senior Land and Resource Governance Advisor, USAID/Washington

## Coffee Talks on Tuesday, May 14

If you are attending the Conference, you can connect with USAID at our booth in the World Bank’s Wolfensohn Atrium. On Tuesday, May 14, we will host a series of “Coffee Talks” with LRG Division staff where you can ask your questions, learn about our work, and tell us about yours. Here’s the schedule:

Time (EDT)	Speaker(s)	Topic
10:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.	Stephen Brooks, LRG Division Chief	USAID’s Land and Resource Framework
11:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.	Ioana Bouvier, Senior Spatial Science & Technology Advisor Janet Nackoney, Land and Resource Governance Officer	Geospatial Data and Land Rights
2:00 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.	Sam Turano, Deputy Division Chief and Minerals & Mining Lead Chloe Cole, Natural Resources Officer	Critical Minerals
3:15 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Caleb Stevens, Senior Advisor, Governance and Natural Environment	Implementation Science
4:15 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Karol Boudreaux, Senior Land and Resource Governance Advisor	Women’s Land Rights



# LRG's Recent Research and Programming (2020—2024)

In recent years, the [LRG Division](#) has led research, piloted new approaches and methods, and implemented evidence-based programming around multiple issue areas including climate change, women's empowerment, and Indigenous Peoples and local communities. Increasingly, we are also turning our attention to land and resource rights within the context of [critical minerals](#) and the energy transition more broadly.

## Climate Change:

Land rights are integral for [climate adaptation and resilience](#). The LRG Division will continue its global efforts to strengthen land and resource governance, in turn improving biodiversity conservation, [mitigating resource-related conflict](#), promoting sustainable agriculture, and increasing resilience. Land and resource governance feature prominently in the [USAID Climate Strategy 2022-2030](#), which is guiding the Agency's work with partner governments and in-country stakeholders to build a more resilient, equitable, and prosperous world.



### [Issue Brief: Natural Climate Solutions and Land and Resource Governance](#)

A challenge for USAID and other stakeholders committed to climate action is how to reduce greenhouse gas emissions given that land use accounts for almost a quarter of annual emissions globally. This brief focuses on two Natural Climate Solutions pathways estimated to have the largest potential for climate mitigation—avoided deforestation and forest restoration—and the LRG interventions that can contribute.

## Women's Empowerment:

The LRG Division is a global champion for [women's equality and economic empowerment](#), often in partnership with the private sector. Aside from supporting women's engagement in agricultural supply chains, the Division prioritizes inclusive and participatory land use planning and land rights registration to [empower women](#) and other marginalized groups socially and economically.



### [Gender Norms and Land: Identifying and Shifting Harmful Norms to Strengthen Women's Land Rights](#)

In many countries, land rights are governed by customary systems that are often male-dominated and influenced by harmful gender norms. This report shares the impacts of the USAID Integrated Land and Resource Governance Activity's work to identify and shift these gender norms in Ghana, India, Malawi, Mozambique, and Zambia.

## Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities:

As control of land and resources is often associated with significant political, social, and economic power, the rights of vulnerable and marginalized groups to their land are commonly impinged. For Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IP and LCs), better access to and control over land and other resources can help counter long-standing injustices and contribute to social and economic benefits. Support for [Indigenous land rights](#) in particular is crucial for [environmental protection](#), forest conservation, and climate mitigation. Strong and clear land and resource governance for IP and LCs is an LRG priority and is outlined in USAID's [2020 Policy on Promoting the Rights of Indigenous Peoples \(PRO-IP\)](#), [Local Capacity Strengthening Policy](#), and [Rule of Law Policy](#).



### [Tanzania Demand for Documentation: Who Pays for Land Documents and Why?](#)

Based on community-level data from USAID's Feed the Future Land Tenure Assistance activity in Tanzania, this new study examines the participation of rural landholders in paying for first-time land registration. Locally, the research allows us to better understand why some villagers chose to pay for their title, why some others did not, and what factors influenced ability and willingness to pay.



### [Environmental Defenders Issue Brief](#)

This brief provides an introduction to the range of issues that environmental defenders face worldwide, followed by discussion of key areas for engagement and donor support for protecting the rights and well-being of environmental defenders. It provides an in-depth discussion of Indigenous Peoples and women, two groups of environmental defenders who are at particular risk for violence.

---

The USAID Integrated Land and Resource Governance II program released last week a [Request for Applications](#) for its Environmental Defenders Grant Program, which is designed to support environmental defender organizations with the resources necessary to enhance their impact in addressing the land-related root causes of threats, and ensure the long-term sustainability of their vital work.

---