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**QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT**  
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INTEGRATED LAND AND RESOURCE  
GOVERNANCE II (ILRG II) TASK ORDER

July 2024

INTEGRATED LAND AND RESOURCE  
GOVERNANCE II TASK ORDER  
UNDER THE ONE ACQUISITION  
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Cover Photo: Cocoa farmer in  
Asankrangwa, Ghana holds up cocoa pod  
during ILRG II scoping visit in April 2024.

All individuals featured in photographs in  
this document have given their consent  
for their image to be used in ILRG II  
publications.

# Table of Contents

- Table of Contents** ..... i
- List of Acronyms**..... iii
- 1.0 Introduction** ..... 1
- 2.0 Key Accomplishments & Challenges**..... 4
- 3.0 Project Management**..... 6
  - 3.1 Project Performance.....6
  - 3.2 Project Management .....6
- 4.0 Zambia** ..... 7
  - 4.1 Background & Objectives .....7
  - 4.2 Technical Approach .....7
- 5.0 ID Hub**..... 10
  - 5.1 Background & Objectives ..... 10
  - 5.2 Technical Approach ..... 10
- 6.0 GEWE Côte d’Ivoire** ..... 12
  - 6.1 Background & Objectives ..... 12
  - 6.2 Technical Approach ..... 12
- 7.0 GECCA - Ghana**..... 13
  - 7.1 Background & Objectives ..... 13
  - 7.2 Technical Approach ..... 13
- 8.0 Environmental Defenders**..... 15
  - 8.1 Background & Objectives ..... 15
  - 8.2 Technical Approach ..... 15
- 9.0 Green Cities/Adaptation**..... 17
  - 9.1 Background & Objectives ..... 17
  - 9.2 Technical Approach ..... 17
- 10.0 Research and Learning**..... 18
  - 10.1 Background & Objectives ..... 18
  - 10.2 Technical Approach ..... 18
- 11.0 Communications and Events** ..... 19
  - 11.1 Communications ..... 19

11.2	Events .....	19
<b>12.0</b>	<b>Emerging Activities .....</b>	<b>21</b>
11.1	USAID Zambia .....	21
11.2	IP.....	21
11.3	Critical Minerals.....	21
11.4	Research and Learning.....	21
<b>ANNEX</b>	<b>Project-specific Performance Indicators .....</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>ANNEX</b>	<b>Success Story .....</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>ANNEX</b>	<b>Project Brief.....</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>ANNEX</b>	<b>List of Media.....</b>	<b>33</b>

# List of Acronyms

ADS	Automated Directives Systems
CBNRM	Community Based Natural Resource Management
COGEBS	Comité de Gestion du Bassin Sambirano
ECOM	Ecom Agroindustrial Corp.
EITI	Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative
FSC-IF	Forest Stewardship Council Indigenous Foundation
GDA	Global Development Alliance
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
GUC	Grants Under Contract
HoC	House of Chiefs
ID	Inclusive Development
ILRG II	Integrated Land and Resource Governance II
IP	Indigenous Peoples
IPARD	Indigenous Peoples Alliance for Rights and Development
LRG	Land and Resource Governance
LTPR	Land Tenure and Property Rights
MELP	Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Plan
MLGRD	Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development
MLNR	Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OYW	One Young World
PES	Payment for Ecosystem Services

REFS	Resilience, Environment and Food Security
RFA	Request for Applications
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

# Introduction

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

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

1. Strengthen enabling environments to promote inclusive legal and policy frameworks for LRG 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 LRG laws and practices;
3. Build innovative partnerships with the private sector that enable responsible land-based investing to promote resilience; and
4. Support robust monitoring, evaluation, research, and learning activities to improve LRG programming.

ILRG II is a five-year contract that was awarded in September 2023. This third quarterly report covers April to June 2024. During this quarter, ILRG II implemented the fourth and final phase of the mid-term evaluation of the Indigenous Peoples Alliance for Rights and Development (IPARD) program in Panama, Honduras, and Guatemala. ILRG II continued to provide technical and capacity strengthening support to key non-governmental and governmental stakeholders in the women's land rights, wildlife, and natural resource space in Zambia, building on relationships established under the ILRG program. Scoping work continued for the Gender Equality and Cocoa Climate Activity (GECCA) to promote women's empowerment and sustainable agroforestry in Ghana with funding from the Gender Equity and Equality Action (GEEA) Incentive Fund at USAID, as well as the Washington-funded Gender Equality and

Women's Empowerment (GEWE) Cocoa activity in Côte d'Ivoire. A legal analysis, feasibility assessment, and gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) analysis were initiated and will inform the GECCA project implementation plans. ILRG II released a Request for Applications and reviewed concept papers for the Environmental Defenders grant program. A concept note on a proposed Green Cities/Adaptation pilot in peri-urban Malawi was completed and ILRG II initiated the planning of a Scenario Analysis to affirm the feasibility of the concept and inform site selection. The project also supported a number of smaller research tasks.



## ILRG II GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS



## 2.0

# Key Accomplishments & Challenges

This period was focused on initiating and developing the priority activities identified during project start-up workshops with USAID and core subcontractors. Key challenges this quarter included slower than expected approvals for technology and requests to subcontract, as well as the expected support to the USAID Zambia Mission. Key accomplishments during the work period include:

**Zambia:** 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 build the capacity of women leaders in the Kafue landscape. ILRG II remains involved in the Women's Land Rights (WLR) platform which uses ILRG-developed tools, and continues to explore opportunities and next steps for the Stand for Her Land work, in consultation with USAID.

**Inclusive Development (ID) Hub:** The IPARD evaluation team implemented the fourth and final phase of the mid-term evaluation of the Global Development Alliance (GDA), which convenes multi-sector partners to secure 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.

**GEWE Côte d'Ivoire:** ILRG II aims to replicate successful approaches piloted in Ghana under ILRG in Côte d'Ivoire to strengthen GESI within Ecom Agroindustrial Corp. (ECOM), promote livelihood diversification for women, and shift harmful gender norms in the cocoa sector. ILRG II has begun work on the GESI analysis, with primary data collection planned for early July. The project has engaged Equal Origins to conduct the Gender Equity Index Assessment and provide capacity strengthening for ECOM staff and local cooperatives on gender equality.

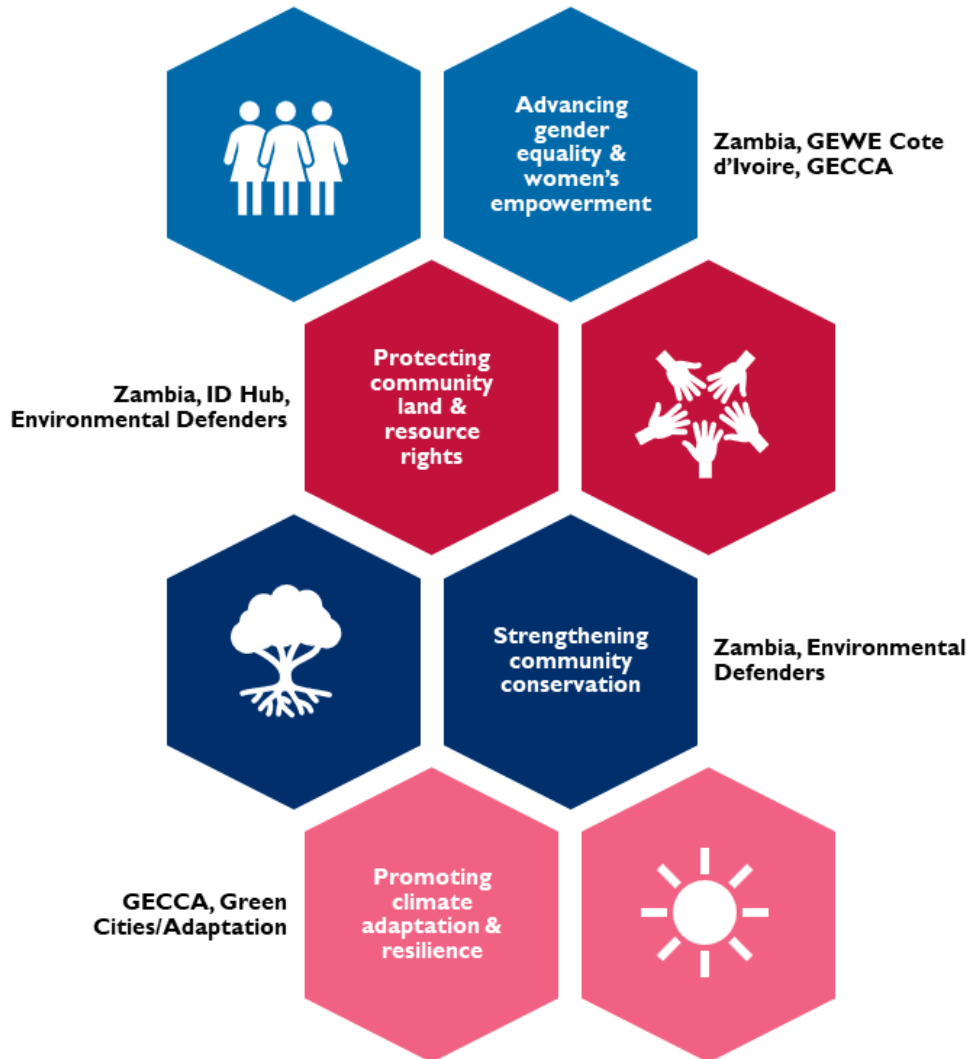
**GECCA:** ILRG II plans to implement a gender-inclusive agroforestry program to enhance women's economic empowerment, climate change mitigation, and reforestation in Ghana. ILRG II conducted an initial scoping trip to Ghana in April with the ECOM Global Sustainability team. Conversations are ongoing in pursuit of private sector co-financing for this activity, leveraging USAID GEEA Incentive Funds. ILRG II began work on an initial legal analysis, feasibility assessment, and GESI analysis, which will inform the implementation plan.

**Environmental Defenders:** ILRG II released a Request for Applications (RFA) for the Environmental Defenders grant program, with Phase I concept papers due June 1. ILRG II received and completed a review of over 100 Phase I concept papers. Shortlisted applicants will be invited to submit full applications early next quarter.

**Green Cities/Adaptation:** ILRG II completed a concept note on a pilot project for Green Cities/Adaptation aimed at supporting climate-resilient urban expansion in Malawi.

**Events:** ILRG II actively participated in several significant events last quarter. At the World Bank Land Conference 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 AI, 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.

**Other Activities:** ILRG II advanced a number of small research pieces this quarter, designed to help USAID expand their knowledge on potential new areas of work, better communicate about the linkages between LRG and other development priorities, and support Missions to explore their own research priorities. Efforts included background research on how to value community carbon assets to inform the Asian Development Bank guidance note on land acquisitions and land use, as well as preparations for the development of a USAID Automated Directives System (ADS) Mandatory Reference on the social impacts of changes to land tenure or natural resource use or access.



## 3.0

# Project Management

### 3.1 Project Performance

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

**Quality:** ILRG II provides diverse and dynamic services, exemplified by deliverables produced for USAID in the last quarter. For example, ILRG II produced a literature review on cluster farming in Ethiopia, which USAID described as high quality and interesting. ILRG II also received positive feedback on preparatory work for the GECCA-Ghana activity, particularly the development of investment criteria.

**Schedule and Timeliness:** ILRG II is highly responsive to USAID requests, including those requiring a quick turnaround. Following the development of agricultural and land tenure talking points, USAID LRG said, “We'd like to start by saying how much we appreciate the rapid response to this request and the way you've pulled together so much material.”

### 3.2 Project Management

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

During this quarter, ILRG II received approval for the project's GESI Strategy and Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning Plan (MELP). The ILRG II team had the opportunity to put the recently approved Grants Under Contract (GUC) Management Manual to use with ILRG II's first request for grant applications. Additionally, the team prepared a start-up package to facilitate the expected expansion of the ILRG II portfolio to additional countries. The project's digital approvals platform, specifically designed for ILRG II, has now processed dozens of requests and is streamlining the process of obtaining and tracking approvals.

In the third quarter, the project welcomed a new Operations Specialist and recruited a part-time Senior GESI Specialist who will be onboarded during the first week of July. These two new core team members will support the expanding ILRG II activity portfolio. In addition, ILRG II received the Contracting Officer's consent to subcontract to four ILRG partner organizations and submitted a fifth subcontract request which remains pending.

# 4.0

## Zambia

### 4.1 Background & Objectives

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

### 4.2 Technical Approach

During this quarter, the ILRG II team continued to advance its USAID Washington-supported work, which included administrative start-up, as well as technical discussions with the government and partners under the existing Washington-funded components of the work. ILRG II continues to support long-standing partners in Zambia to utilize tools and processes developed under previous activities and open up dialogue on future engagements.

**Administrative Progress:** The ILRG II office in Lusaka is now fully functional and located at 46 Kudu Road in Kabulonga. All four staff based in Lusaka (Country Coordinator, Wildlife Specialist, Data Management Specialist, and Finance & Operations Specialist) were engaged as full time employees as of April 1, 2024. ILRG II's Deputy Chief of Party was in Zambia from May 3 to June 1, 2024 supporting administrative startup activities, including conducting training and orientation for the Zambia Country Coordinator and team.

**Traditional Leadership and Community Governance Capacity:** ILRG II initiated dialogue with the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development (MLGRD) and the House of Chiefs (HoC) to develop a strategy for long-term support to strengthen the capacity of traditional leaders. ILRG II is exploring a potential partnership between Chalimbana University and the government-sponsored Local Government Institute to co-host a traditional leadership course, which would build off a two-week residential training developed under ILRG. ILRG II continues to engage with the Chalimbana Local Government Institute and the HoC and is working towards a Memorandum of Understanding to deliver the Traditional Leadership and Governance diploma course.

ILRG II continued to support the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources (MLNR) to advance dialogue with the Chiefs on customary land documentation. At the request of MLNR, ILRG II presented to the HoC on customary land documentation standards and administration tools including the Zambia Customary Land Administration System (ZCLAS). The ILRG II data specialist met with three chiefs (Nzamane, Maguya, and Sandwe) to discuss collaboration opportunities to strengthen the chiefdoms' capacity on land administration and the use of ZCLAS.

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 Game Management Area (GMA). 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 supported VLUP stakeholder engagement from June 20-21 to foster multi-stakeholder dialogue and started drafting a VLUP methodology based on a pilot process intended to be replicated in other chiefdoms.

**Wildlife and Natural Resource Management:** ILRG II submitted inputs for the Wildlife Act emphasizing the need for the Act to consider gender equity, promote community natural resource rights in 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. 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 continues to collaborate with the USAID Business Enabling Project to promote inclusive national and local level policy discourse on natural resource management.

**Gender Equality and Social Inclusion:** ILRG II continued to backstop partners on gender equality and social inclusion both in the wildlife and land sectors. ILRG II has continued the 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 promote community dialogues on women's land rights and to expand the cadre of champions advocating for women's land rights using ILRG II developed tools. The WLR platform initiated plans to launch the locally-led “a care for your land” awareness program to educate women who own land on the value of land and how they can effectively use and add value to their land. ILRG II continues to explore opportunities and next steps related to the Stand for Her Land work in Zambia, which will require consultation with USAID.

**National Level Civil Society Coordination:** ILRG II continued to monitor activity in both the natural resource management and land sectors related to civil society advocacy. 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 awaits guidance from USAID on further national-level engagement in both the land and natural resource management sectors.

**National Level Government Coordination:** ILRG II has maintained its relationships with the MLNR, the Ministry of Tourism through the Department of National Parks and Wildlife, the Ministry of Green Economy and Environment through the Forestry Department, and the MLGRD through both the Physical Planning Department and the House of Chiefs. ILRG II engaged with the Director of Physical Planning and Deputy Clerk of the House of Chiefs in discussing areas of interest and potential collaboration with the MLGRD.



*CBNRM Policy Launch in Lusaka, Zambia, June 2024. Credit: ILRG II.*

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, also 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.

**Data Management & Coordination:** ILRG II, with the Czech Republic Sustainable Landscape through Integrated Management program, has convened a cohort of data experts to meet periodically to ensure that land data management approaches are shared to avoid duplication. In particular, ILRG II is identifying opportunities to share information on Community Forest Management Groups and coordinate on technical inputs into forest policy and legislation. At present, ILRG II is awaiting for a revised timeline from the Czech program.

**Sustainable Landscapes Opportunity Analysis (SLOA):** ILRG II shared SLOA outcomes and a [data platform](#), which is a continuation of learning from ILRG, with USAID. ILRG II is expected to present the SLOA to the Natural Climate Solutions team in Washington next quarter, as an example of how to integrate governance considerations into the SLOA process.

# 5.0

## ID Hub

### 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**

IPARD is a GDA that convenes multi-sector partners to secure IP rights, strengthen their capacity, and catalyze economic self-development. IPARD is implemented by FSC-IF, created through a partnership between USAID and FSC, and is in its third year of implementation. USAID has requested that ILRG II carry out a mid-term performance evaluation of the IPARD GDA that can inform future USAID engagements with IP groups. The approach to this evaluation is highly participatory and can act as a methodological example for future participatory and inclusive evaluations.

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

During the last quarter, the evaluation team implemented the fourth and final phase of the mid-term evaluation. The fourth phase involves the presentation, consultation, and validation of findings and recommendations with key stakeholders in the months of April and May prior to producing the final report. Presentation, consultation, and validation of findings involved the review of draft findings presented in two stages to key stakeholders and the subsequent revision of the drafts based on their feedback. The first draft of key findings was sent to FSC and USAID for review and discussion on March 27. Comments were received throughout the month of April. Based on the feedback the team conducted additional research which included four additional key informant interviews, as well as several information exchanges with IPARD staff. The second draft of findings was sent to FSC, USAID, FSC-IF, and IPARD for review and discussion on May 4 and comments were received mid-May. The team produced a full report including an executive summary, introduction, background, findings, and recommendations taking into consideration the feedback received, and submitted a draft for FSC’s and USAID’s review at the end of June. ILRG II and USAID plan to present the highlights of the evaluation to foster discussion and inform decision-making via strategic virtual meeting opportunities over the next quarter.



## **FSC Indigenous Foundation Grant: One Young World (OYW) 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 aims to support Indigenous youth in empowering their leadership on strategic issues focused on the protection of their territories, including natural resources, culture, and governance systems.

The OYW summit will convene youth leaders from around the world focused on social impact, and will be held in Montreal, Canada in September 2024. In preparation for the summit, FSC-IF will provide virtual networking, mentoring, capacity development, and logistical support to the Indigenous youth. FSC-IF staff will accompany 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

## 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 will continue 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 this activity are to:

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

## 6.2 Technical Approach

During this quarter, ILRG II began the initial GESI analysis for the activity, preparing data collection tools and conducting a desk-based literature review. ILRG II has engaged a local gender consultant to lead the primary data collection, including household surveys and focus group discussions with men and women farmers and key informant interviews with ECOM staff, local cooperatives, and other cocoa sector stakeholders. Primary data collection is planned for early July, and the GESI analysis should be finalized by late July.

ILRG II has engaged Equal Origins, an NGO specializing in gender equality capacity building in the cocoa and coffee sectors, to conduct their Gender Equality Index (GEI) with Zamacom (ECOM's legal entity in Cote d'Ivoire), supporting ECOM's global goal of having 100% of the origin-sourced supply chain complete the GEI by 2025. Equal Origins will then conduct their 12-week virtual 'Better Together' workshop with Zamacom staff, going over the results of the GEI and identifying areas where the company can strengthen its gender equality and social inclusion work. Equal Origins will help Zamacom develop a Gender Equality Development Plan to guide its work to implement these changes. Zamacom will also invite three local exporters or cooperatives to join these workshops, as these stakeholders lead farmer-level extension services for the company. ILRG II facilitated an initial kick-off meeting with Zamacom and Equal Origins in early June. Zamacom has completed the GEI and has identified staff who will attend the 'Better Together' workshops, set to begin in early July.

# 7.0

## GECCA - Ghana

### 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. Despite their contributions, women are often overlooked by cocoa companies' extension services. Harmful gender norms dictate that men are considered the household heads and women are responsible for unpaid household/care work, limiting their participation in sustainable farming. Gender-based violence is pervasive in cocoa communities and used to exclude women from cocoa income.

Under the predecessor ILRG program (2018-2023), USAID supported two pilot projects 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 gender equality and women's empowerment in the cocoa value chain. Under ILRG II, USAID plans to merge these two work streams into a broader gender-inclusive agroforestry program to increase women's empowerment, promote climate mitigation, and incentivize reforestation in Ghana. GECCA activity aims to:

- Deliver gender norms dialogues with women and men in cocoa farming families;
- Form village savings and loan associations (VSLAs) and provide financial literacy and entrepreneurship training to women in cocoa farming families;
- Give seed grants to women in cocoa farming families to start alternative livelihoods;
- Facilitate gender-responsive agroforestry training for women and men cocoa farmers;
- Establish a payment for ecosystem services (PES) scheme to encourage the planting and maintenance of 900,000 shade trees on cocoa farms, with carbon removal credits accruing to a private sector funder, which will retire those credits in order to report on its net zero commitment with integrity.

Funding for the activity will come from USAID through the GEEA Incentive Fund, a private sector company interested in funding the PES work in exchange for generated carbon removals, and ECOM through in-kind support. Additionally, there is the potential to leverage funding from chocolate brands that buy from ECOM in the future to support the continued scale-up of this work.

### 7.2 Technical Approach

ILRG II conducted a scoping visit to Ghana with the ECOM Global Sustainability team in mid-April. The team visited pilot PES sites in the Asankrangwa region and held focus group discussions with farmers to assess their perceptions of the activity. The team discussed initial assumptions about optimal tree density per hectare, size of PES payments, implications of rising cocoa prices for the PES model, the value of tree registration, and the number of communities

needed to achieve the target scale. The team then held two days of meetings with the ECOM Global and Ghana teams in Accra to discuss project feasibility, timelines, and next steps. The results of the endline evaluation of the pilot PES project, expected in fall 2024, will inform the final design of the activity and help verify underlying assumptions.

ILRG II, USAID, and ECOM participated in an initial set of conversations with a third party organization, which manages the private sector funder's nature-based solutions investment fund which the project is seeking financing from. The third party organization clarified a number of investment criteria. Based on these discussions, the third party organization has asked ILRG II to prepare a revised cost model for the activity, as well as a robust feasibility assessment to inform their investment decisions. ILRG II released a Request for Proposals for the feasibility assessment at the end of the quarter, and plans to engage a firm to complete this work next quarter.

ILRG II has also engaged a Ghanaian law firm to lead a legal analysis of the activity. The firm will provide a legal opinion on activity alignment with national legal requirements within the Ghana Cocoa REDD+ framework and the national framework on international carbon markets and associated requirements of the Ghana Carbon Markets Office. They will also provide guidance around the required steps to register and verify new carbon projects with the government, which will need to happen in parallel to project registration with Verra or Gold Standard. ILRG II received a draft opinion at the end of June, which it shared with USAID and ECOM.

ILRG II has also identified a local gender consultant to lead the GESI analysis. Data collection is planned for late July or early August, and ILRG II has prepared analysis design documents and data collection tools. This GESI analysis will build on the [ILRG 2021 Ghana GESI assessment](#) but dig deeper into barriers and opportunities for women in agroforestry, green jobs, and carbon benefit-sharing schemes.



*Cocoa farmer shows off 2 year old shade tree sapling planted under the ILRG pilot activity in Asankrangwa, Ghana. Credit: Meagan Dooley/ILRG II.*

## 8.0

# Environmental Defenders

## 8.1 Background & Objectives

The global environment is facing severe threats from climate change, deforestation, pollution, and other forms of degradation, impacting biodiversity, ecosystems, and the well-being of communities worldwide. Environmental defenders, including human rights advocates, journalists, and local community members, play a crucial role in protecting natural resources and advocating for sustainable conservation practices. These defenders often face threats, harassment, and violence, with 227 environmental defenders killed in 2020, making it the deadliest year on record. 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 at an event with Gillian Caldwell on May 2. 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 is soliciting applications through a two-phased process. In the first phase, over 100 applicants submitted brief concept notes, which were due on June 1 and have been reviewed by the ILRG II team. In the second phase, expected early in the next quarter, ILRG II will invite short-listed applicants to participate in a virtual Application Workshop and submit full applications.

ILRG II expects to award at least four grants of between \$150,000 to \$300,000 each for organizations working in regions and countries with a high level of threat to environmental defenders' groups and their territories; the final number and value of the grants will depend on the quality and potential impact of the applications received. The regions include Latin America & the Caribbean, Asia, and Sub-Saharan Africa. 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

## 9.1 Background & Objectives

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

This activity aims to pilot a climate-resilient land tenure and land use planning approach in peri-urban areas in Malawi to generate sustainable revenue for resilient infrastructure and services through partnerships with municipal governments and to inform national and international coordination around land tenure in peri-urban environments.

## 9.2 Technical Approach

ILRG II submitted a concept note to USAID on a conceptual framework for a pilot project for Green Cities/Adaptation aimed at supporting climate-resilient land use planning and urban expansion in Malawi. The primary goal of the conceptualized project is to design, implement, and evaluate a replicable model for participatory urban planning that can enhance the adaptability and resilience of Malawian cities to climate change. The initiative seeks to guide urban expansion away from environmentally sensitive areas and promote denser, potentially more affordable, transit-oriented settlement patterns through two main project components. The first component will be a city-wide land use plan that focuses on preserving green spaces and identifying “no build” zones. The second component will be the development of a neighborhood plan in a selected pilot area using a participatory and inclusive approach to land pooling and subdivision to guide the conversion of suburban rural lands to urban use. In the upcoming quarter, ILRG II will implement a Scenario Analysis of candidate areas in Lilongwe, Blantyre, and Zomba to determine the feasibility of the approach and ultimately guide the selection of the ideal site for pilot project implementation.

# 10.0

## Research and Learning

### 10.1 Background & Objectives

ILRG II provides support to both USAID Washington and Missions on ad hoc research and learning tasks to explore new areas of interest for USAID, identify rigorous evidence and best practices, and potentially inform future activity design. This quarter, ILRG II completed a literature review on cluster farming in Ethiopia, drafted talking points on the linkages between land tenure and property rights and food security, undertook new research on how to value community carbon assets in compensation and relocation decisions in land-based investments, and began scoping a review of the USAID 2016 Guidelines On Compulsory Displacement and Resettlement.

### 10.2 Technical Approach

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

USAID and USAID Ethiopia were interested in learning more about the efficacy of cluster farming for smallholder farmers given the government's continued investments in the initiative. ILRG II conducted a literature review, which USAID Washington and the Mission reviewed. This research activity is now complete.

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

ILRG II asked ILRG II to develop a set of talking points on LTPR impacts on food security and agriculture. ILRG II prepared the initial draft talking points which are currently with USAID for review.

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

The Asian Development Bank 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. ILRG II has engaged a consultant to lead this work, and a draft report was submitted at the end of June.

#### **Performance Standards**

USAID is interested in reviewing its 2016 Guidelines on Compulsory Displacement and Resettlement in USAID Programming and comparing it with other Multilateral Development Banks' guidance to identify any gaps, make recommendations for adjustments to USAID's approach and draft an ADS Mandatory Reference on the social impacts of changes to land tenure or natural resource use or access. A Tetra Tech environmental and social impact assessment expert will lead this work and is expected to be finished in September.



# 11.0

## Communications and Events

### 11.1 Communications

This quarter, ILRG II communications centered around the World Bank Land Conference, 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](#). Caldwell also highlighted the grant in her wrap-up post about USAID’s participation in the World Bank Land Conference on [X](#). In addition, ILRG II and USAID supported the Zambian government’s [launch](#) of the CBNRM Policy, which was highlighted by the Ministry of Tourism on [Facebook](#).

### 11.2 Events

**World Bank Land Conference** (May 13-17, 2024): ILRG II was well represented at the World Bank Land Conference (WBLC), leading three panels made up of 17 representatives from USAID, government, traditional leaders, civil society, international researchers, and implementing partners from Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, Madagascar, Malawi, Republic of Congo, and Zambia. In addition to convening three panel discussions on cross-ministry coordination on land



*ILRG II facilitated women’s land rights panel at the World Bank Land Conference in Washington, DC from May 13-17, 2024. Credit: Meagan Dooley/ILRG II.*

policy implementation, land administration challenges in the era of climate change, and innovative approaches to unlock rural and Indigenous women’s land rights, ILRG II facilitated meetings between USAID and the Permanent Secretaries/Directors from the Ministry of Lands for Malawi and Zambia about future partnership opportunities. The team also organized a meeting between USAID and the World Bank around emerging marine tenure work, sharing out past LRG resources in this area and flagging it as a continued area of interest for the division.

**USAID Land Forward** (May 17, 2024): ILRG II and New America facilitated a “Land Forward” meeting with USAID and partners, Held on the Friday of the WBLC, with around 45 participants from USAID, implementing partners, NGOs, the private sector, and research organizations in the land space. The event began with three short lightning talks on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and land rights, combating land corruption, and working with spiritual leaders

to secure Indigenous territories. Then, following an ‘unconference’ model, participants in the room proposed topics for three break-out sessions. Participants put forward several interesting areas for discussion, including environmental refugees, critical minerals and the new green economy, retaining qualified land administration professionals, advancing women’s and IP’s land rights, data security and ownership of local communities, and solutions for land rights in Suriname. ILRG II received positive feedback about the ‘unconference’ approach and participants seemed eager to engage in small group discussions after a week of panel presentations at the WBLC.

**USAID 2024 Global Gender Equality Conference (May 20-23):** ILRG II Senior GESI Specialist Thais Bessa and Zambia Country Coordinator and GESI Advisor Patricia Malasha



*From left to right: ILRG II Senior GESI Specialist Thais Bessa, ILRG II Zambia Country Coordinator Patricia Malasha, LFP Chief of Party Adriana Velez, ILAW Deputy Chief of Party Safiatu Alabi, and LFP GESI Expert Julia Madariaga at the USAID Global Gender Conference in Washington, DC. Credit: ILRG II.*

participated in the USAID 2024 Global Gender Conference in Washington D.C. 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 Improving Women’s Land (ILAW) Activity.

**Social Norms Learning Collaborative Webinar on Gender Norms (May 30):** 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 ~80 in attendance and a lively chat and Q&A session with attendees from NGOs, research institutions, and implementing partners from around the world. The recording of the webinar is available [here](#).

## 12.0

# Emerging Activities

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

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

### 11.1 USAID Zambia

ILRG II anticipates future field-based Mission support for USAID Zambia. This work is expected to build on and continue the current technical and capacity strengthening support funded by USAID Washington. ILRG II is awaiting details from the Zambia Mission on a proposed scope of work and budget for field-based Mission support in targeted biodiversity landscapes.

### 11.2 IP

There is interest from the USAID ID Hub to work with ILRG II on different smaller activities in support of its IP portfolio. Building on initial engagement on the IPARD evaluation, the ID Hub is interested in working with ILRG II to facilitate a co-creation process with IPs in Brazil on how USAID can help Indigenous groups access and benefit from climate/carbon finance. In preparation for this, ILRG II has compiled a comprehensive list of Indigenous-led organizations and local experts on Indigenous inclusion in carbon markets. There is also potential interest in working with ILRG II to support a Pacific Island IPs Conference on climate resilience and land tenure. ILRG II is on standby to engage in these activities pending the finalization of scopes of work and budgets and USAID concurrence.

### 11.3 Critical Minerals

USAID noted that details on a potential new activity with USAID Dominican Republic supporting improved reporting to the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) are expected to be forthcoming.

This work is expected to align with ILRG II’s substantive focus area of critical minerals. The team will continue to monitor updates in the sector, in case of future opportunities.

### 11.4 Research and Learning

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

#### **Honduras LTPR Assessment**

USAID Honduras approached USAID LRG about potential ILRG II support on an LTPR assessment. ILRG II is currently waiting on the finalization of the scope of work and budget by the Mission and USAID concurrence to begin initial scoping for this activity.

### **LRG Learning Agenda**

LRG noted an interest in having ILRG II support the development of an LRG division Learning Agenda later, set to begin next quarter or early FY2025.

# ANNEX

## Project-specific Performance Indicators

ILRG II's MELP was approved this quarter, 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	Y1 TARGET	Y1 Q1	Y1 Q2	Y1 Q3	Y1 Q4	Y1 ACTUAL	LOP ACTUAL	NOTES
<b>Global Indicators</b>											
16	Percent of USG-assisted organizations with improved performance. [CBLD-9]	<b>Global</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>TBD</b>	Annual Indicator				<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	Annual indicator, to be reported in Q4.
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>	Annual indicator, to be reported in Q4.
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>0</b> 0 0	<b>0</b> 0 0	Annual indicator, to be reported in Q4.
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>	Annual indicator, to be reported in Q4.
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>	Annual indicator, to be reported in Q4.
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>1,091,468</b> 1,091,468	<b>1,091,468</b> 1,091,468	Includes 7 chiefdoms 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	<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>84</b> 84	<b>84</b> 84	Two CRB Governance Training workshops held in

N°	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	COUNTRY	BASE LINE	Y1 TARGET	Y1 Q1	Y1 Q2	Y1 Q3	Y1 Q4	Y1 ACTUAL	LOP ACTUAL	NOTES
	management and/or biodiversity conservation as a result of USG assistance. [EG.10.2-4]										Luangwa and Kafue landscapes in Zambia this quarter. Training materials and curriculum supported by ILRG II, training implemented by TNC. Attended by 20 women and 64 men.
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]	Global Zambia	0 0	3 3	Annual Indicator				0 0	0 0	Annual indicator, to be reported in Q4.
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 result of USG assistance. [EG.10.4-1]	Global Zambia	0 0	3 3	Annual Indicator				0 0	0 0	Annual indicator, to be reported in Q4.
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	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	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

N°	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	COUNTRY	BASE LINE	Y1 TARGET	Y1 Q1	Y1 Q2	Y1 Q3	Y1 Q4	Y1 ACTUAL	LOP ACTUAL	NOTES
											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	This indicator is not yet assigned to any ILRG II activity.
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	Annual indicator, to be reported in Q4.
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	Annual indicator, to be reported in Q4.
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	Annual indicator, to be reported in Q4.
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		0 0	0 0	No trainings this quarter, VLUP training to be counted next quarter.
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	Annual indicator, to be reported in Q4.
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				0 0	0 0	Annual indicator, to be reported in Q4.
21	Amount of investment mobilized (in USD) for sustainable	Global Ghana	0 0	\$0 \$0	Annual Indicator				\$0 \$0	\$0 \$0	Annual indicator, to be reported in Q4.

N°	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	COUNTRY	BASE LINE	Y1 TARGET	Y1 Q1	Y1 Q2	Y1 Q3	Y1 Q4	Y1 ACTUAL	LOP ACTUAL	NOTES
	landscapes as supported by USG assistance. [EG.13-4]										
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				0 0	0 0	Annual indicator, to be reported in Q4.
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	Annual indicator, to be reported in Q4.
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		36 0 0 36	36 0 0 36	Adding in Women's Land Rights Advocacy/Stand for Her Land Workshop not yet counted from Q2 for Zambia, which brought together 36 land champions from 12 NGOs for a 3 day workshop to develop a strategy for implementing a WLR campaign across Zambia. Attended by 22 women and 14 men, including 9 youth.
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	Annual indicator, to be reported in Q4.
<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	Implementation of CIV and Ghana activities has not yet begun.



N°	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	COUNTRY	BASE LINE	Y1 TARGET	Y1 Q1	Y1 Q2	Y1 Q3	Y1 Q4	Y1 ACTUAL	LOP ACTUAL	NOTES
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	TBD TBD	- -	Baseline/Endline				0 0	0 0	Baseline figures to be collected during GESI assessment.
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	Annual indicator, to be reported in Q4.
27	Projected greenhouse gas emissions reductions reduced or avoided through 2030 from adopted laws, policies, regulations or technologies related to sustainable landscapes support by USG assistance. [EG.13-7]	Ghana	0	0	Annual Indicator				0	0	Annual indicator, to be reported in Q4.
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	Implementation of Ghana activity has not yet begun.
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	Annual indicator, to be reported in Q4.
30	Number of individuals participating in GEEA funded activities. [CUSTOM]	Ghana	0	0	Annual Indicator				0	0	Annual indicator, to be reported in Q4.
31	Number of human rights defenders trained and supported [DR.6.1-2]	IP-Youth	0	15	0	0	0		0	0	IP Youth ambassadors under the FSC-IF have been selected. Mentorship and training for September conference to begin next quarter, they will be counted in Q4.

# ANNEX

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## Success Story

# WORLD BANK LAND CONFERENCE ENERGIZES LOCAL LEADERS TO CONTINUE TO ADVOCATE FOR LAND TENURE ISSUES AT HOME

International events that bring together leaders from around the world to discuss pressing issues in the land sector can help re-energize and motivate local leaders who otherwise face isolation and discouragement working in their particular silos.



*ILRG II participants from Madagascar, Cote d'Ivoire, and DRC at the World Bank Land Conference in Washington, DC. Credit: Meagan Dooley/ILRG II.*

The World Bank Land Conference convened in person for the first time since before COVID-19 in May 2024 in Washington, DC. ILRG II coordinated three panels, including a panel on land administration in the era of climate change, which brought in local leaders from Ghana and Madagascar. One panelist, Raymond Mandiny, is a civil society leader on the Comité de Gestion du Bassin Sambirano (COGEBS), a multi-stakeholder landscape governance platform in the Sambirano Valley in Madagascar. ILRG II supported the formation of the COGEBS under its predecessor project, helping communities advocate for the sale and transfer of state-owned Indigenous Reserves in the area to the present-day occupants.

Upon his return from Washington, Mr. Mandiny has been following up with contacts made at the conference, including from the Malagasy government delegation. Recently, Mr. Mandiny attended a conference in Antananarivo, a two-day journey from Sambirano, on land tenure hosted by the NGO Solidarité des Intervenants sur le Foncier (SIF), a platform of national NGOs working on land tenure. Mr. Mandiny presented on ILRG's work in the Sambirano Valley that resulted in the issuance of over 1,300 land titles by the government. After the conference, COGEBS was invited to be a member of the national SIF platform, which opens up funding opportunities for the group with international NGOs to support their work on women's land rights, land tenure formalization in different tenurial niches, and various legislative agendas. The Swiss NGO Helvetas, a USAID partner under the ILRG project, is providing ongoing technical and financial support to COGEBS, looking for ways to strengthen the capacity of the organization to help it go after further institutional funding.

ANNEX

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## Project Brief

ILRG II's project brief is attached below.



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

## BACKGROUND

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

## GOALS

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

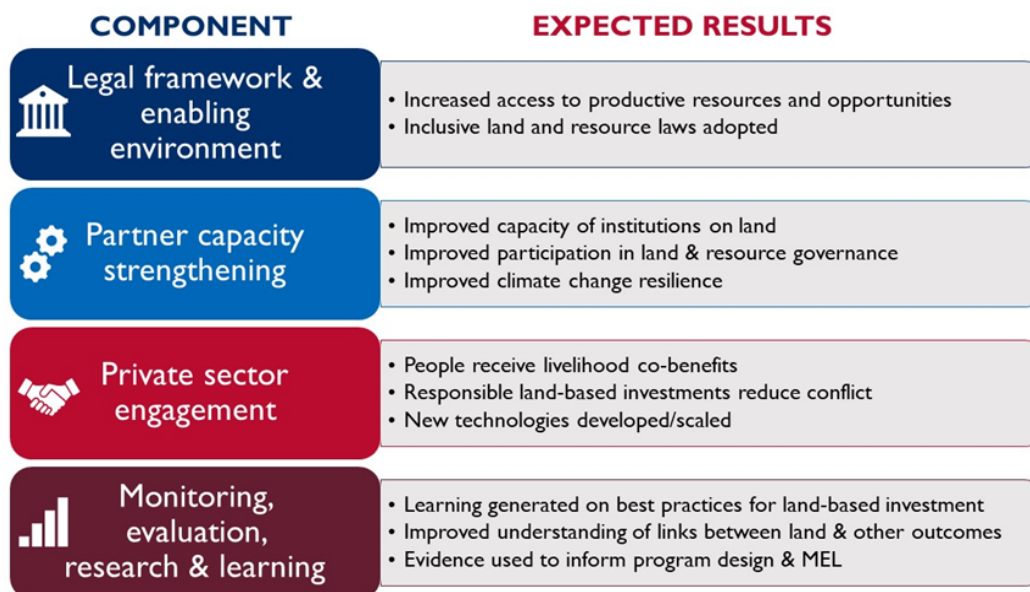
- Empowering women, IPs, youth, and marginalized or underrepresented groups;
- Advancing inclusive climate action and nature-based solutions;
- Conserving biodiversity;
- Strengthening sustainable food and agro-ecological systems;
- Promoting responsible land-based investing and innovation;
- Mitigating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

## 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
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://tetratech.my.site.com/ard/s/solicitation/a0MUP000000RneC2AS/ilrg-jiirfa001?language=en_US">https://tetratech.my.site.com/ard/s/solicitation/a0MUP000000RneC2AS/ilrg-jiirfa001?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		Tetra Tech promoted ILRG II participation in the World Bank Land Conference throughout the week: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intro post 1: <a href="#">X</a>, <a href="#">Facebook</a>, <a href="#">LinkedIn</a></li> <li>• Cross-Ministry Coordination Panel: <a href="#">X</a>, <a href="#">Facebook</a>, <a href="#">LinkedIn</a></li> <li>• Intro post 2: <a href="#">X</a>, <a href="#">Facebook</a>, <a href="#">LinkedIn</a></li> <li>• Land Administration and Climate Change Panel: <a href="#">X</a>, <a href="#">Facebook</a>, <a href="#">LinkedIn</a></li> <li>• GESI Panel: <a href="#">X</a>, <a href="#">Facebook</a>, <a href="#">LinkedIn</a> (reposted by GenDev on X)</li> </ul>
Gillian Caldwell promotion of USAID	Global	5/16/24	<a href="https://x.com/CaldwellUSAID/status/17914401501">https://x.com/CaldwellUSAID/status/17914401501</a>	X post included a link to ILRG II Environmental Defenders grant

Title	Country	Date	Location (Link)	Notes/Dissemination
presence at WBLC			<a href="#">58868824</a>	opportunity.
ILRG II Gender Noms presentation at Learning Collaborative Webinar	Global	5/30/24	<a href="https://www.alignplatform.org/events/gender-social-norms-affecting-equitable-land-governance-findings-3-norms-shifting">https://www.alignplatform.org/events/gender-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.





*Leaders from Shezongo and Musungwa Chiefdoms attend initial stakeholder sensitization meeting on village land use planning (VLUP) hosted by ILRG II and TNC in Zambia. Photo Credit: ILRG II.*

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