



Cover Photo: Women participate in the revision of draft bylaws in Barkedu Clan during the Public Consultations.

USAID LIBERIA LAND MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY

QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

APRIL 1 – JUNE 30, 2023 (FY2023Q3)

Task Order No.: 72066921F00005

IDIQ Contract No.: 7200AA18D00022 (STARR II IDIQ)

Date original report submitted to USAID: July 30, 2023

Date original report approved by USAID: September 1, 2023

July 30, 2023

This document was produced for review by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). It was prepared by ECODIT for the USAID Liberia Land Management Activity, under the Strengthening Tenure and Resource Rights II (STARR II) IDIQ. The contents of the document are the sole responsibility of ECODIT.

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ACRONYMS

ADR	Alternative Dispute Resolution
ATI	Africa Trade and Investment
AMEU	African Methodist Episcopal University
AQL	Acceptable Quality Level
AWP	Annual Work Plan
BCC	Behavioral change communication
BH	Boundary harmonization
C-TIP	Counter trafficking in persons
CAC	Community Acting Collectively
CBO	Community Based Organization
CDCS	Country Development Cooperation Strategy
CLDMC	Community Land Development and Management Committee
CLFTWG	Customary Land Formulization Thematic Working Group
CLIMT	Customary Land Intervention and Monitoring Tool
CLRF	Community Land Rights Formalization
COP	Chief of Party
COR	Contracting Officer's Representative
CSI	Community Self-Identification
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CSOWG	Civil Society Working Group
DCOP	Deputy Chief of Party
DOs	Development Objectives
DRG	Democracy, Rights, and Governance
EG	USAID Economic Growth team
EU	European Union
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
FO	Field Office
FCI	Foundation for Community Initiative
FTI	Forestry Training Institute
FY	Fiscal year
GAI	Green Advocate International
GEP	Geomatics Education Program
GESI	Gender and Social Inclusion
GIS	Geographic Information System
GOL	Government of Liberia
GPS	Global Positioning System
GUC	Grants under Contract
HO	Home Office
IEC	Information, education, and communication
ICC	Interim Coordinating Committee
IDQA	Internal data quality assessment
ILC	International Land Coalition
ILRG	Integrated Land and Resource Governance

IP	Implementing Partner
IR	Intermediate Result
JBC	Joint Boundary Clearing
LAP	Land Administration Project
LIDS	Liberian Initiative for Developmental Services
LIFT-P	Liberia Investment Finance and Trade Project
LISGIS	Liberia Institute for Statistics and Geo Information Services
LGSA	Land Governance Support Activity
LLA	Liberia Land Authority
LMA	Land Management Activity
LOP	Life of Project
LOWON	Lofa Women Network
LRA	Land Rights Act
LTТА	Long-term technical assistance
LUP	Land-use plan
MAP	Multi-Actor Platform on Land Governance and Responsible Agricultural Investment
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MEL	Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning
MOJ	Ministry of Justice
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
PIRS	Performance Indicator Reference Sheets
PRA	Participatory rural appraisal
PSE	Private Sector Engagement
PWD	Persons with disabilities
QASP	Quality Assurance and Surveillance Plan
RRF	Rights and Rice Foundation
SGBV	Sexual gender-based violence
SIDA	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
SDI	Sustainable Development Institute
SHAPE	Sustainable Health, Agriculture, Protection and Economic Empowerment
SOW	Scope of work
STARR II	Strengthening Tenure and Resource Rights II IDIQ
STTA	Short-term technical assistance
TC	Tribal certificates
TDS	Talking Drum Studio
TF	Tenure Facility
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USG	United States Government
VUD	Volunteers United for Development
WB	World Bank
WYTWG	Women and Youth Thematic Working Group

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During this third quarter in the second year (FY23Q3) of the Liberia Land Management Activity (LMA) the project worked alongside its local partners Sustainable Development Institute (SDI), Talking Drum Studios (TDS), and Rights and Rice Foundation (RRF) as well as community-based organizations receiving project grants to engage with 40 additional of communities in Bong, Lofa, and Nimba counties. The project has supported the selected communities in all stages of the Community Land Rights Formalization (CLRF) process. Activities involved public consultations to confirm communities' status in the process, gathering of documentation, and leading communities through self-identification, CLDMC formation, and governance trainings. Trainings were also held on dispute resolution and participants' capacity in land demarcation and boundary consensus to support their boundary harmonization and negotiation processes. In most communities' where there were disputes, the disputes were identified during the boundary harmonization stage. The LMA team worked with community members, ADR practitioners and the Liberia Land Authority (LLA) to resolve disputes, and finalize the boundary harmonization, so that the communities would be well positioned for the LLA to carry out the final step of the confirmatory survey. The work has positioned approximately six communities to complete their confirmatory survey with the anticipation that the LLA will be able to award them deeds.

In particular, during this quarter the project led efforts to identify areas of delay and coordinate with other donors and implementers providing support for the CLRF process in order to prevent overlap, ensure smooth handover when appropriate, and maximize the support provided to communities establishing community land rights throughout Liberia.

The project continued to support community engagement with information and awareness activities to ensure widespread knowledge of the CLRF processes and to further communities' understanding of women's land rights and inclusive land governance structures. In order to strengthen effective and peaceful resolution to land disputes the project began efforts to synthesize alternative dispute resolution manuals and began efforts to draft a new ADR training manual with modules particularly focused on land disputes. The project also initiated community conversations to diversify representation on ADR bodies in 10 communities in Lofa and Bong Counties.

Activities also supported the continued development of LMA's PSE strategy, developed a training module to provide negotiation skills to CLDMCs, assessed the feasibility of tax breaks for private sector actors to engage in an equitable way with communities, and continued to engage with private sector enterprises who may be appropriate partners for communities.

I.1 PROJECT OVERVIEW

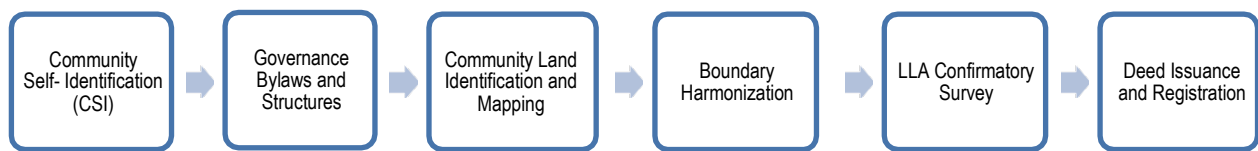
The purpose of the LMA is the effective and inclusive management of communal land through land tenure processes. Its aim is to support Liberian communities in obtaining deeds to their customary land per the 2018 Land Rights Act (LRA) and to support the improved use of customary land for sustainable, equitable economic benefit.

Issues of land ownership are central to two Development Objectives (DOs) of USAID/Liberia's 2019-2024 Country Development Cooperation Strategy (CDCS), which LMA objectives and results will support: DO 1 – Market Driven, Inclusive Economic Growth Supporting Increased Job Creation; and DO 2 – Effective and Inclusive Governance Catalyzed through Reform and Greater Accountability. The LRA presents a natural opportunity to advance these DOs, especially as the Act demonstrates a commitment to invest authority in local communities to govern the use of their own land through CLDMCs. By focusing on CLDMC development, USAID will be investing in the GOL's vision of local governance while giving communities tools to serve their own interests. LMA presents an opportunity to build on past USAID investments to assist Liberian communities to achieve effective and inclusive governance of their land and resources, with a focus on the following four objectives:

1. Communities obtain deeds to their communal land;
2. Communities plan and manage communal land for productive use;
3. Women, youth, and other marginalized groups participate in and benefit from communal land management; and
4. Communities utilize Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) to resolve land disputes and grievances.

The LRA includes a six-step process for formalizing community land rights (see Exhibit 1), with the end result being a deed issued to the communities, who have gained a better understanding of their land rights and how they are shared among all community members, and who work to more effectively and equitably govern and manage their land. The LRA also includes provisions for establishing Community Land Development and Management Committees (CLDMC), inclusive governance bodies that are charged with communal land decisions and the development of sustainable land use plans.

Figure 1: The Six Steps of the CLRF Process in Liberia



The CLRF process is lengthy and complex, few communities are capable of navigating the process alone. With the support of international donors, Liberian civil society organizations (CSOs) have worked to help communities through the process and meet requirements associated with each step to ultimately secure land deeds.

1.2 TARGET AUDIENCES AND STAKEHOLDERS

To achieve the above goal and objectives, the LMA engages with a wide range of audiences and stakeholders at the national and local levels. The LMA is working closely with the GOL through the LLA, focusing on local communities, to advance the CLRF process, achieve effective and inclusive governance and ensure gender integration in all project activities. USAID interventions focus on six priority counties; of these, LMA has selected communities in the four counties of Lofa, Bong, Nimba, and Grand Bassa, allowing the project to maximize its comparative advantage in private sector engagement, with judicious use of Grants Under Contract (GUCs), local solutions, and incorporation of environmental and climate considerations. By focusing CLRF efforts in communities in these counties, LMA leveraged the results of previous CLRF facilitation by USAID’s Land Governance Support Activity (LGSA) and other organizations.

LMA partners RRF and SDI carried out targeted interventions to guide communities through the CLRF steps. TDS conducted communications campaigns and outreach on the CLRF process, and provided focused trainings and interventions on women’s land rights and gender and social inclusion.

This section provides a narrative overview of LMA’s key achievements for FY23Q3.

1.3 CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

Grants Under Contract: Starting Quarter 2, LMA issued grants to the following four CBOs in Lofa, Bong, and Nimba Counties. The current period of performance is for one year, beginning in March 2023. In Quarter 3, the grantees worked closely with the LMA consortium to provide field-level and on-the-ground support to target communities in their respective counties. The Project mentored and coached the grantees, focusing on effective community mobilization and preparing project communities for field implementation. The team provided capacity development through applied skills transfer by incorporating staff members of the grantees into all activities, giving them opportunities to facilitate special sessions. By the end of each activity, the entire team reviewed what went well, what could have gone better, and what actions to take for improvement. This on-the-job collaboration between the implementing partners and the grantees has helped to build the CBOs’ capacity to implement land formalization activities.

The following summary represents the grantees' interventions:

- **Liberian Initiative for Developmental Services (LIDS)** – Gbarnga, Bong County – LIDS focused on mobilizing ten communities through co-facilitating public consultations on the CSI and Boundary Harmonization processes. LIDS mobilized the communities, led in setting ground rules and post action re-cap, facilitated small group meetings, and recorded notes of the discussions. Afterwards, they formed part of the awareness activities in Bong. During this time, LMA provided hands-on mentoring and coaching in awareness raising on the CLRF process in three communities. LIDS continued the awareness in the various subunits to keep the communities engaged.
- **Lofa Women Network (LOWON)** – Zorzor, Lofa County – LOWON co-facilitated public consultations on the CLRF process in five communities. LOWON mobilized the communities, led a re-cap session, facilitated small group meetings, and recorded notes of the discussion. They were tasked to follow up with sub-units, supporting community members on their CLDMCs' formation, and working with the communities to identify potential CLDMC members.
 - LOWON supported LMA in raising awareness on the CLRF process and conducting women land rights trainings in five communities, taking the lead in three, defining the difference between gender and sex and what the inheritance law says about women owning land.
- **Sustainable Health, Agriculture, Protection and Economic Empowerment (SHAPE)** – Nimba – SHAPE is receiving mentorship and coaching from the LMA technical team, namely the Land Administration Specialist, Gender and Social Inclusion (GESI) Specialist, and the Land Tenure and Communication Specialist. SHAPE co-facilitated with the Land Tenure and Communication Specialist and the GESI Specialist to conduct CSI and women land rights training in ten communities in Nimba. SHAPE mobilized the communities, taking the lead in five communities for the CSI and the women land rights training, while LMA led in the other five.
- **Volunteers United for Development (VUD)** – Voinjama, Lofa County – VUD co-facilitated the governance training for the CLDMCs by mobilizing the communities and acquiring the space for the training. LMA facilitated the trainings in Kolahun District (Tahamba, Hassala, Tahamba, Wanwoma, Wulukoha), VUD supported training facilitation in Vahun District (Upper Guma, Lower Guma and Central Guma), and VUD also facilitated in Foya District (Upper Waum and Lower Tengie). VUD followed up on the CLDMCs' three-month workplan with focus on boundary harmonization. VUD mobilized nine communities for an LMA-led boundary harmonization training and also participated in the training. The team provided more coaching and mentoring to VUD's staff after a live radio talk show, evaluating their performance during the awareness raising activity, and provided skills building in data collection and reporting to VUD's Executive Director and MEL Officer.

Customary Land Intervention and Monitoring Tool/ Updates to Lantmäteriet database: On May 10, 2023, the project met with Landesa, Lantmäteriet (Swedish Land Agency), and the LLA, involving 21 civil society organizations (CSOs) actively engaged with rural communities on customary land formulation. During the discussion, participants reviewed their Customary Land Intervention and Monitoring Tool (CLIMT) portal and found that there are 147 communities already on the portal. 50 communities were found not to be on the portal. Further, it was also discovered that 21 institutions were doing CLRF but nine were not represented on the platform. Participants discussed and agreed to modify the portal by adding a comment column and separate columns for donor partners and implementing partners. It was suggested that capacity-building training for CSO members on customary land rights formulization be organized to enable members/organizations to identify their roles and responsibilities and increase knowledge and skills in the land sector.

The following recommendations would improve the use of the portal:

- Develop a workable means and method of supporting CSOs to upload their data to the portal.
- Create a master list of CSOs that are carrying on land formalization in Liberia.
- RRF, Green Advocates, LLA, and the MAP Team will follow up with the nine partners that are not on the portal to get a list of communities they have worked in.
- Develop a system for the portal to block duplication at the sub-unit level.
- Green Advocates will circulate the link to the portal; send the Excel spread sheet and the list and map of clans.
- Use the MAP Thematic group to bring together customary formalization implementers on a quarterly basis.

2. YEAR TWO WORK PLAN ACTIVITIES

ECODIT's implementation approach aims to address the challenges and leverage the opportunities prevalent within Liberia's land sector. These activities are in accordance with the Land Rights Act (LRA) and evidenced CLRF best practices generated by USAID's previous LGSA project.

2.1 OBJECTIVE I: COMMUNITIES OBTAIN DEEDS TO THEIR COMMUNAL LAND

ECODIT works to provide Liberia's dynamic civil society with training and resources to hone their advocacy efforts vis-à-vis the GOL, enabling the latter to better respond to citizen demands for secure land rights, to empower target communities to secure deeds through a pathway established in law, and to operate effective land and resource governance systems that equitably serve all community members. Therefore, throughout the intervention, the LMA focuses on assisting to communities to complete the CLRF process, giving guidance to help them to build partnerships with the private sector for potential investments, promoting participatory land planning and productive use of the lands; and providing training on conflict resolution and mitigation. Throughout implementation, LMA has incorporated Gender, Equity and Social Inclusion (GESI) considerations into all project activities and undertaken specific interventions to better include women, youth, persons with disabilities (PWD) and other marginalized groups in community decision making processes. The following are the main activities accomplished this quarter.

TASK I.1: WORK WITH CSOS TO GUIDE COMMUNITIES IN FOLLOWING THE CLRF PROCESS TO OBTAIN DEEDS FOR THEIR COMMUNAL LAND

The majority of LMA's work involves supporting communities through the CLRF process. The following activities took place this quarter, organized by county.

BONG:

Community Mobilization in Zota and Jorquelleh 2: At the beginning of the quarter, LMA conducted community mobilization meetings in Zota and Jorquelleh 2 in Bong County as part of the CLRF process to inform and educate communities on their land rights. The team provided information on the project with respect to the overall goal, targets, and expectations from the community.

During community mobilization in central Zota, the community members lodged a complaint with the LMA partners. The complaint focused on the alleged sale of 1,950 acres of customary land belonging to five villages (Dienenah, Hanimah, Blenmah, Mator Village and Rubbermu). According to a communication sent to the Chairman of the LLA, this transaction displaced around 4,000 people, including men, women, youth and children, who are now without land to farm. The sale involved an alleged illegal survey exercise conducted by the County Land Administrator of Bong County. To address this, the LMA provided education on processes required for the confirmatory survey, paying special attention to the roles designated to both the LLA and the community.

When investigating the status of the community letter, the LLA confirmed that the entire process leading to the granting of that deed had been illegal. The individual who received the illegal deed was mandated to disengage from further actions compelling him to take customary land. The Commissioner responsible for that region in Bong became directly involved, undertaking a peaceful settlement of this dispute. The LMA supported the process, through communication and coordination of community level meetings. The LMA also shared the community complaint with the CSO Working Group on Land Reform for further advocacy support if necessary. At the time of reporting there has been a resolution to this dispute, and boundary harmonization has commenced.

Community Mobilization, Profiling, and Awareness Campaigns in Kpatawee, Koryorquelleh, Menquelleh, Nyalai, Sheansue, Mawuta, and Gwilapolu: The LMA carried out community assessment, profiling, and inception meeting activities in Kpatawee, Koryorquelleh, Menquelleh, and Nyalai. Prominent among these activities were awareness raising on the LRA of 2018, promotion of alternative dispute



Figure 2: Physically challenged chairperson consults Project flyer on CSI

resolution (ADR) to settle land disputes, education of women, youth, and other marginalized groups on their land rights, supporting the CLRF process with specific emphasis on Community Self-Identification (CSI), CLDMC formation, and Boundary Harmonization. 82 people participated in the community assessment and inception meetings in Kpatawee, Kporyorquelleh, and Menquelleh. 34, or 41.5% of the participants were female. Youth representation was 33, or 40.2% of the total participants.

The LMA also mobilized communities to conduct community assessments, update community profiles, and hold inception meetings in Sheansue and sub-units town and villages of Bella, Peabody Town and Kolleh-ta, Mawuta Clan. In addition, LMA conducted awareness raising activities on the CLRF process focusing on the first step, CSI, in Kpaiquellie, Gwilapolu, Central Zota, Gbanshay, and Mawu-ta and Seansue. This included town hall style meetings, two radio talk shows, and six community-level campaigns, together reaching approximately 180 persons, including women, youth, men and disabled or physically challenged persons. The LMA also distributed flyers that contained messages on CLRF and the processes involved, including community roles and responsibilities in ensuring that the process is implemented successfully. During the town hall style meetings on CSI and CLRF in Kpaiquellie, Gwilapolu, Central Zota, Gbanshay, and Mawu-ta and Seansue communities, 114 persons participated, including 53

females and 61 males. Youth representation included 33 people. LMA continued to conduct awareness raising on the CLRF process, and CSI step, in the sub-units of Foloblai, Nyakalah and Tomu in Gbanshay Clan; Samay and Tokpalah in Sheansue Clan; Shankpallai in Kpaiquellie Clan; and Wenkai, Nyalai and Beletanai in Nyallai Clan.

During this work, the LMA discovered boundary disputes in some of the areas, such as between Sheansue and Kokoyah District. At the close of this quarter, the LMA is supporting the community-led discussions for the resolution of this dispute. The Clan comprises 26 towns and villages and it shares boundaries with the Kpai, Gbanshay, and Mawuta Clans, all without any disputes. In addition to the boundary disputes it has with Gbongay, Menquelleh Clan, there is also an internal dispute within Nyalai involving Wolosue and Beletanai Towns.

The LMA supported members of CLDMCs from Central Zota, Kpatawee, and Menquelleh Clans to prepare letters of invitation to key stakeholders for a meeting with local authorities to discuss current fears and concerns about the CLDMCs and the CLRF process, which will highlight the importance of strong coordination between the CLDMCs and local authorities. This meeting will address the challenges identified during a community gap assessment. The challenges stemmed from previous poor coordination and communication between CLDMCs and local authorities over the execution of roles and responsibilities. A mass community meeting took place in each of these clans to resolve the coordination issues between the CLDMCs and local authorities in the three clans. During the LMA-facilitated meeting, the local authorities expressed their dissatisfaction about lack of information sharing from the previous implementing partners and the CLDMCs. With LMA support, the CLDMCs and local authorities were able to resolve this matter and the induction ceremonies for all three clans will take place between August 6 and 29, 2023. On August 6, Menquelleh will conduct their CLDMCs induction in office ceremony, while Kpatawee and Zota will conduct their induction ceremonies on August 19 and 24, respectively.

LOFA:

Preparation for Confirmatory Survey in Palama and Vavala: On June 3 and 4, 2023, LMA carried out community entry activities in both Palama and Vavala Clans in Salayea District. Palama will soon carry out its confirmatory survey, while Vavala is completing boundary harmonization and will soon be ready for confirmatory survey. During these initial visits, LMA met with stakeholders, including town chiefs, chairladies, youth leaders, landlords, CLDMC members and others community residents. Of the 58 community members who participated in these activities, 12 were female and 46 were male. The landlords of Palama showed a willingness to engage in a dialogue with the neighboring Gbarlin Clan through the traditional land dispute method, in order to find common ground on their shared boundary and settle any disputes peacefully.

LMA supported the LLA to start community validation of completed steps in preparation for the confirmatory survey activities in Palama. To accomplish this, LMA conducted a public consultation to harmonize Palama's boundaries. Local authorities facilitated two days of public consultations between Palama and Zolowo communities with the Gizzima Clan. Four sub-units attended: Beyan Town, Ganglota, Telemue, and Salayea. Participants included all local stakeholders from the community, such as: landlords, CLDMC members, town chiefs, paramount chiefs, clan chiefs, youth leaders. and the county superintendent

Boundary Resolution in Hassala and Lukasa: On May 26, 2023 LMA conducted a series of meetings to help resolve land disputes between Hassala and Lukasu Clans. The LMA, in collaboration with Parley, facilitated a series of large community-wide meetings with community members and key stakeholders utilizing traditional ADR approaches to resolve a long-standing land conflict between Gbelahun/Lukasu and Nyadiama/Hassala communities. Two Paramount Chiefs and two Commissioners from Wanhassa and Lukambai Districts participated in the proceedings. The parties signed an MoU to recognize their resolution, with the demarcation of the points completed on June 16, 2023.

Public consultations, Community Self Identification, and CLDMC Formation in Wonegizi, Viawulu, Bluyeama, Sylakore, Wangolodu, Barkedu, Womama, and Saybama:

- LMA carried out community entrance and awareness raising activities in Wonegizi and Viawulu in Zeyeamu Clan, Bluyeama Zone 2 in Bluyeama Clan II, in Zorzor District and Sylakore Clan, Wangolodu Clan, Barkedu Township and Saybama Clan, as well as all of Quadu Boni District from April 10-14, 2023. During these visits, the LMA team met with a variety of stakeholders in the targeted areas, including town chiefs, town chair ladies, youth leaders, landlords, CLDMC members and others community members, totaling 220 participants.
- On April 17, LMA conducted a follow-up with Bluyeama Zone 2 on the boundary dispute between Balagalazu Town of Bluyeama Zone 2 and Loboah Town in Zone 4, Zorzor district. The team held

a town hall meeting with the town chief, town chairlady, CLDMC members, elders, landlords, youth and other members of the community. Saygbama clan has already selected two representatives from their sub-unit to represent them on the CLDMC. 36 community members attended, 17 male and 15 female and four youth (all male).

- From April 19 to 24, 2023, LMA conducted two public consultations in two clusters comprising five Project communities in Lofa County. Consultations with the Sylakore Clan, Wangolodu Clan, Barkedu Township, Womama Clan, and the Saygbama Clan focused on gathering all relevant documents such as maps and required data from each community, and to identify gaps in the CLRF process. 105 people (64 males and 41 females) participated, including 35 youth and 70 adults (36 years and above), seven Interim Coordinating Committee (ICC) representatives, 42 local leaders, three physically challenged people (one male and two females) and two Chief Imams were present. Accompanying the consultations was the awareness raising on the CSI process and CLDMC formation in the communities. LMA's interventions focused on updating and finalizing required documents such as their sketch map and confirming the CSI which was completed prior to the passage of the LRA, therefore all five of the communities had completed the CSI stage without certificate of completion by the LLA.
- They have animators and ICC members and have initiated drafting of bylaws at the community level since 2017-2018, prior to the passage of the LRA, with support from the SDI under the Community Land Protection Program (CLPP) and the European Union Rights for Liberia projects. LMA therefore supported completing the appropriate documentation and updating the community profile and sketch maps. CLDMCs are not in place there, the governance bylaws were not completed, and there is no documentation on resolved boundaries, either internal and external, within the five communities. Outstanding boundary issues between project communities and neighboring communities remain a challenge. This is due to power dynamic among stakeholders, politicians and the different growing interest over land tenure and ownership from external influential community members. The project continues to work with the communities to update CSI documentation, guide them through the CLDMC formation, and apply for validation of the CSI step. LMA continues to engage the communities to work on peaceful resolutions of boundary disputes.



Figure 3: CLDMC meetings with Sakonedu Town, Saygbama Clan, Kwadubondi District Lofa

CLDMC Trainings in Tahamba, Wulukoha, Hassala, Wanwoma, Lower Tengia, Upper Waum, Central, Lower, and Upper Guma Clans: From April 26 to May 4, LMA conducted and completed CLDMC capacity building training in nine communities in Lofa County. The training focused on organizational development, roles and responsibilities, and relationship building with traditional leaders and local authorities.

These trainings were conducted in the following community clusters:

1. **Cluster #1:** Kolba City – (Hassala, Tahamba, Wanwoma, Wulukoha)
2. **Cluster #2:** Vahun City – (Central Guma, Lower Guma and Upper Guma)
3. **Cluster #3:** Foya City – (Lower Tengia and Upper Waum Clans)

The trainings sought to:

- Improve participants understanding of the CLDMCs’ roles and responsibilities;
- Establish lines of communication between CLDMCs and Community Acting Collectively (CAC), as well as local authorities;
- Expose CLDCMs to the basic understanding of the concept of good governance and leadership;
- Acquire additional skills in dealing with the meaningful participation of women in land governance and women’s land rights;
- Develop a three-month action plan for the CLDMCs.

The trainings brought together stakeholders including CLDMC leadership and Community Assembly Presidents, from CLRF project communities and district levels. Participants demonstrated greater skills acquired through short role-playing exercises, games, and guided presentations. CLDMCs made progress reports, identified challenges, and developed three-month action plans to focus on creating effective community awareness and sensitization, internal and external boundary harmonization meetings. 47 CLDMC members participated (19 female and 28 male), 18 youth (aged 18-35), and 29 adults (aged 36 and above).

Under a separate initiative, the LMA team continued reviewing, revising, and developing a leadership training manual that will help sensitize communities on the importance of inclusive leadership and to also train and build the capacity of CLDMC members to being more effective leaders in their communities.



Figure 4: Participants in Boundary Harmonization Training in Kolahun City, Lofa County during the LMA Chief of Party’s Visit

Boundary Harmonization in Nine communities in Foya, Kolahun and Vahun Districts: The team carried out Boundary Harmonization trainings April 15-23 in nine communities in Foya, Kolahun and Vahun Districts, including Upper Guma, Central Guma and Lower Guma, Tahamba and Wulukoha, Hassala and Wanwoman, Upper Waum and Lower Tengia. Three of the five training sessions were conducted at cluster level while the rest were facilitated as stand-alone activities. Each training session lasted two days. The training objectives aimed at building capacity of the CLDMCs and relevant local authorities such as Commissioners, Paramount Chiefs, Clan Chiefs, Women and Youth Presidents, members of community boundary harmonization teams in demarcation, dispute resolution, boundary point consensus, leadership

in boundary harmonization and negotiation efforts, and working with the LLA to collect additional new GIS data where applicable. Activities included:

- Training sessions on boundary harmonization
- Facilitation of boundary harmonization and negotiation meetings
- Gathering information on tribal certificates
- GIS data gathering

The strategy allowed for both LMA and LLA to present on key topics that build on the expertise of the staff. The sessions were arranged in ways that encouraged exchanges between facilitators and participants. There were work sessions and role-playing exercises all aimed at allowing participants to share their knowledge and experience. The training placed specific focus for women’s participation.

The participants of the training included CLDMCs and relevant local authorities (District Commissioners, Paramount Chiefs, Clan Chiefs, women and youth presidents, members) and boundary harmonization teams.

Summary of Information Participants, Venues, and Timeline of Trainings:

Participating community/ies	Training venue	Date(s)	Participants			Comments
			Female	Males	Total	
Upper, Central and Lower Guma communities - Cluster level	Vahun Town	June 13-14	11	33	44	Number of participants increased by 4
Tahama and Wulukoha communities - Cluster level	Honeyahun Town	June 15-16	9	21	30	Number of participants increased by 2
Hassala and Wanwoman Communities - Cluster level	Popalahun Town	June 17-18	13	21	34	Number of participants increased by 6
Lower Tengia - Stand Alone Community	Lengbamba Town	June 20-21	9	13	22	Number of participants increased by 2
Upper Waum	Porluma Town	June 22-23	10	14	24	Number of participants increased by 4

- **Facilitation of boundary harmonization and negotiation meetings and GIS exercise:** During each training session, the LMA worked with the communities to plan and organize community-led boundary negotiation meetings. Products of the training included a community profile that identified disputed boundaries, restructured boundary harmonization teams, and a schedule for boundary negotiation with their neighbors.

The GIS process involved visiting boundaries identified by the communities and the collection of GPS coordinates using special programmed phones. In some instances, communities finalized boundary harmonization MoUs during the collection of those points.

- **Gathering information on tribal certificates:** During each training, facilitators asked participants about the existence of tribal certificate (TC) claims in their communities and to provide information on who might be in possession of TC. Facilitators reminded them that LLA would conduct a nationwide TC verification and validation process. The information obtained from the communities will be shared with the LLA.

- **The following outcomes resulted from the training:**

1. Participants at all five locations gained knowledge in boundary harmonization. Boundary teams used these skills to collect additional GIS data.
2. Consolidated information on the status of boundary harmonization processes in the nine communities. As a result of LMA interventions, disputes that had been previously unresolved were settled peacefully. For instance, through the training, Lower Tengia, Upper Waum, Lower, Upper and Central Guma communities have all harmonized boundaries and signed MoUs with their neighboring communities. A long-standing boundary dispute between Lukasu and Hassala communities was resolved through LMA's facilitation of stakeholders' collaboration. The resolution of this conflict signifies Hassala and Wanwoma communities' completion of boundary harmonization with all neighbors.
3. Each community updated and/or established boundary harmonization teams to lead negotiation meetings and GIS data collection processes.
4. The team provided technical support to all nine communities to undertake boundary harmonization and dispute resolution efforts including meetings and GIS data collection.
5. LMA gathered information on the existence of TC in some the sub-units of the communities. Some participants report TCs in Tahamba, Central Guma, and Lower Tengia communities.
6. Strengthened relationships between CLDMCS, boundary harmonization teams, local authorities, and traditional leaders. This improved relationship resulted in the County Superintendent being selected to lead boundary harmonization efforts between Tahamba and Wulukoha communities, working directly with the CLDMCs and boundary harmonization teams.
7. Several GIS data were collected in most of the nine communities following resolution of those conflicts as indicated in geospatial files of each community.

On April 24, 2023, the LMA collaborated with VUD to organize a live radio talk show that spanned over an hour, and presented a general overview of USAID, the LMA project, the promotion of women's land rights, and the importance of their participation in the land governance structures formed in LMA communities. The primary objective of the live talk show was to reinforce awareness messages and amplify the voices of women, highlighting their rights to access land for economic empowerment. The platform provided an opportunity for listeners to call in and share their views and perspectives, contributing to the continuous improvement and re-evaluation of LMA's learning objectives. Importantly, the platform provided an opportunity for listeners to call in and share their views and perspectives, contributing to the continuous improvement and re-evaluation of LMA's learning objectives. The radio show took place at a recently refurbished radio station called DENGOLA, which symbolizes peace and unity, and reached an audience of an estimated 100,000 over Lofa, Bomi, Gbarpolu, portions of Bong, and Republic of Guinea.

Fissebu Land Dispute: In the beginning of the quarter LMA staff, together with the Chairman [REDACTED] of the LLA and Commissioner [REDACTED], traveled to Lofa County to resolve an ongoing boundary dispute in Fissebu and Zelemai. The Lofa County Superintendent, other government officials, and key community members joined the proceedings. LMA organized meetings with representatives from Zelemai to better understand the issue that necessitated the complaint filed with the LLA that resulted in the stoppage of the collection of boundary points. After a successful dialogue, Zelemai agreed to the collection of boundary points to complete the next step for the confirmatory survey.

A joint boundary team formed, comprising representatives from both Fissebu and Zelemai. Additional observers joined from the adjacent community of Borkeza. The joint boundary team went into the field and collected an agreed upon six points to use to form a polygon. The points collected were used to determine the disputed land and to initiate a negotiation dialogue to determine the way forward.



Figure 5: Fissebu Boundary Clearing Team

LMA then conducted three separate meetings with Borkeza, Zelemai, and Fissebu. LMA visited each of these towns to explain the purpose of the visit and the intended process to resolve the land border dispute and encouraged them to fully participate in the upcoming negotiation dialogue meeting. LMA encouraged the three communities to attend the meeting with open minds and to try as much as possible to resolve the issues.

Following the trip to Fissebu, LMA and LLA agreed that the next step was to draft a map with the points of disagreement clearly shown for communities to discuss and to help reach a final resolution. LMA engaged the LLA to produce the draft survey map ([see Appendix 3](#)) with the six boundary points of concern for the two communities to review in a neutral place.

On June 2, the LMA organized a follow-up meeting in Zorzor as promised, following the Project's last visit there with both the LLA Chairperson and one of the Commissioners. This trip was intended to be the final confirmatory survey consultation meeting, held at the Lutheran Hospital, Community Health Hall, a neutral location selected to ensure access to internet service so that the team could utilize Google maps to better help community members identify and visualize key features within the disputed boundaries. The Lofa County Superintendent led the discussions with technical support provided by the LLA Lofa County Land Administrator and LMA. A map showing all Fissebu boundaries that LLA had prepared highlighted the disputed parcel and the six identified GPS points provided by both Zelemai and Fissebu. The disputed area covers an estimated 400 acres of land.

Individual communities were asked to initially have intra-consultations and to provide possible solutions. Both communities maintained their previous positions, and were unable to reach a resolution on the disputed boundary. As instructed by the Superintendent and the mediation team, Borkeza and Workessue Head Landlords facilitated an inter-consultation between both communities to make suggestions for any resolutions. Unfortunately, the two communities were still unable to resolve their boundary dispute.

The LLA Lofa County Land Administrator presented an option that would divide the contested land by a diagonal line drawn through the six points. The line provided consideration to villages within the Zelemai portion of the land in the north-west part of the contested area, thereby maintaining a portion of the land already occupied and developed by Fissebu residents. Both communities agreed to this logical solution.

After the landlord of Zelemai discussed a draft MoU with his community, the community agreed on the proposed solution. To conclude this issue, the mutually agreed resolution was communicated to the LLA Lofa County Land Administrator, and the required documentation provided to prepare the Fissebu Statutory Customary Land Deed. The LLA Lofa County Land Administrator, whose responsibility it is to

lead on the deeding process, and following probating and registration, will advance the process and present the deed to the LLA Chairperson for his review and final approval.

One important result of the dispute in Fissebu is the planned intervention organized by Viawulu and Zelemai for a self-support engagement meeting with Fissebu and other surrounding communities. The Viawulu CLDMC organized a meeting to discuss a way forward with boundary resolution with Fissebu and in advance of its own boundary harmonization with Zelemai and other neighboring communities. Planned for July 5, this meeting is the community's own initiative to ensure that their confirmatory survey process will go much more smoothly than Fissebu's. Boundary negotiations and confirmatory surveys will soon take place for both for Viawulu and Wonnegizi. 37 participants from six communities attended the initial meeting, 24 men and 13 women, nine of whom are youth.

NIMBA:

Community Assessment and Final Selection: LMA began entry into Nimba County with a community assessment in Zoe-Geh District to validate additional communities for the project to target. LLA and SHAPE recommended some communities for LMA to assess. As part of this process, all communities were oriented on the CLRF process, enabling each community to make informed decisions in relation to CLRF. During the assessment, LMA discovered that Parley had originally been supporting the communities under the Tenure Facility Project. LMA and Parley agreed that Parley would continue working in those communities because they had recently received additional funding from the Tenure Facility to continue their support. Due to the sensitive nature of land formalization, it was in the communities' best interest to maintain continuity working with the same familiar partner, rather than to introduce them to a new organization that would have to gain their trust and build relationships from the beginning. The LLA was involved in the discussions and approved of the decision. LMA broadened its assessment to new communities adjacent to those originally identified in Nimba. Based on recommendations from the LLA, SHAPE, and Parley, LMA completed an assessment of ten new communities, located in Gbor, Zoe-Gbao and Zoegeh Districts. These include:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Gbor Payee | 6. Gblah |
| 2. Gbor Zuoplay | 7. Zayglay |
| 3. Gbor Wehplay | 8. Zoe Luapa |
| 4. Gbor Gampa | 9. Bayleglay |
| 5. Miaplay Yeezlay, Maplay and Bonnah | 10. Siapla 1 and Siaplay 2 |

Community Self Identification: From May 7 to June 12, in collaboration with the LLA Nimba County Office, the Project began CSI activities in all of the ten new communities and completed the following:

- The community's signed expression of interest and MoU;
- A draft community profile;
- A community sketch map of its boundaries; and
- Formed the Interim Coordinating Committee (ICC).



Figure 6: Two female participants explaining their community sketch during CSI activities in Nimba.
Photo courtesy of SHAPE Liberia

LMA is currently supporting these communities to apply for certification from the LLA. LMA compiled all the documents generated from the CSI process as part of the documentation needed for CSI certification and is currently uploading and cataloguing them onto the project Google Drive. The Project will submit both soft and hard copies to the LLA for review and validation before certification. Following the completion of CSI activities, LMA continued its work with the ten communities to prepare them for the next step of the CLRF process: governance training and the establishment of their CLDMCs. The project includes youth, men, women, people with disabilities, key influential community members, and others to prepare communities to ensure widespread inclusion in the process. Throughout this process, the LMA focused on mentoring and training SHAPE, building their knowledge and capacity in the CLRF process so they will be able to lead future activities in these and other communities.

Women’s Land Rights: The LMA team also concluded ten trainings and focus group discussions (FGDs) on women’s land rights in all the Nimba communities. The trainings brought together 323 participants, of which there were 159 females and 164 males, including 63 youth. Key stakeholders and community members who participated in the trainings included local and traditional leaders, persons with disabilities, other marginalized groups, ICC members and town criers. The trainings focused on the following topics:

- Gender concepts and some gender terminologies
- Gender equality
- Gender Inequality
- Gender roles and gender norms/system
- C-TIP training

C-TIP training: The counter trafficking in persons (C-TIP) orientation and awareness raising was integrated into the women’s land rights trainings conducted in the last five communities, reaching 156 participants (77 males, 79 females). The training encompassed the definition of C-TIP, a discussion on the revised Liberia Trafficking in Persons Act of 2021, as well as international law. That was followed by a discussion on how to combat trafficking (“the four Ps”). The team also shared the U.S. State Department’s

Trafficking in Persons Report during the summary, along with the Trafficking Victim Protection Act, and Liberia’s tier rankings and the need to improve to avoid consequences for not actively combating trafficking.

TASK 1.2: SUPPORT EFFORTS TO ADVANCE REGULATORY AND INSTITUTIONAL REFORMS THAT ACCELERATE AND EXPAND CLRF

Advocacy for Land Rights Act Regulations and Guidelines: On April 5-6 the LMA supported an advocacy session for the implementation of the LRA in adherence to the approved Regulations and Guidelines. The meeting brought together a total of 21 participants (13 males, 8 females), from 15 member organizations (see Table 1). The CSOs presented their comments (see Table 2 below) the LRA in a position paper and encouraged their incorporation into the gazetted regulations.

Table 1: CSO Working Group Members:

No.	Institution
1	Shape Home Care Services
2	Landesa
3	Liberia Reform Movement
4	Social Entrepreneurs for Sustainable Development
5	Women NGO Secretariat of Liberia
6	Liberia Concern Women Development Association
7	Alliance for Rural Democracy
8	Natural Resource Women Platform
9	Voice of the Voiceless
10	Save My Future
11	FORUMCIV
12	Liberia Concern Women for Development Association
13	Rights & Rice Foundation
14	Community Rights Support Facility
14	National Coalition of Civil Society Organizations of Liberia
15	New African Research and Development Agenda

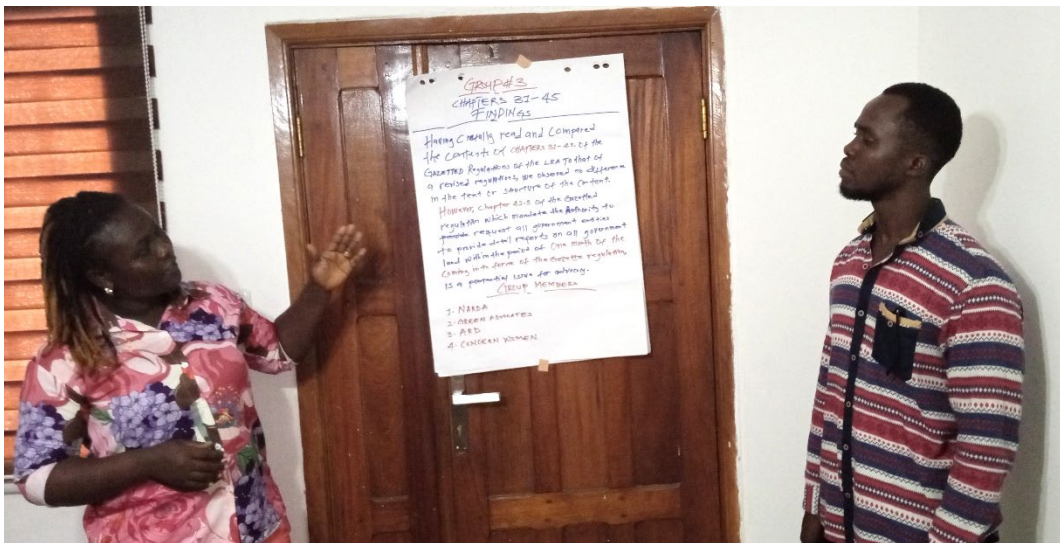


Figure 7: CSO WG members discussing their suggestions to improve the LRA’s Regulations and Guidelines

Table 2: CSOs comments incorporated in the Gazetted Regulations as presented in the position paper to the LLA during the validations with LMA support as started in the table below:

Regulation # in Seven and Eight Drafts	Reviewed Section	CSOs Recommendations	Now reads as:	Follow-up Advocacy Issues for Clarity
Regulation 14 Tribal Certificate	14.1 Within fourteen days of the coming into force of these Regulations, the Authority shall publish a notice in at least three newspapers, radio or television stations of national coverage, the website of the Authority, and the Gazette, requiring all holders of Tribal Certificates to submit their certificates to the Authority for validation within a specified period.	It should be made clear for the specified period for submission of tribal certificate to not exceed six (6) months, at the most	R14.1- Within six months of the coming into force of these Regulations, the Authority shall issue detailed Guidelines, supported by an Action Plan and Budget, for the submission and validation of Tribal Certificates.	Meeting with implementation timeframe, since November 2022
Regulation 15 Bylaws	15.1 A community shall hold an advertised meeting, in the way in which community meetings are ordinarily held, at which a Committee shall be selected to draft by-laws for the community, utilizing a process agreed by the community at the meeting and in accordance with the Land Rights Act and any Regulations and Guidelines issued by the Authority.	If the community meets according to their ordinary means, they could meet on Saturday, or Sunday... So, what will happen in light of the definition of 'Days'? What if the meeting held with and/or organized by a CSO/NGO?	15.2 A community shall use mediums for advertising the meeting which have the capacity to reach as many members of the community as possible, including women, youth, persons with disability and other marginalized groups, and where possible, with no gender being less than 40%, provided that all reasonable measures including raising sufficient awareness, capacity building and other relevant strategies such as gender sensitive approaches should be employed and supported by all members of the community to promote equal and equitable participation of all.	
R19 categories of community land use	19.32a Community Cultural Shrines and Heritage Sites shall include: a) lands used for many years by a distinct group of Community Members, including women, youth, persons with disability and other marginalized groups for the practice of cultural or traditional rites.	Let it reflect all categories of the community members including men as well.	19.32a Community Cultural Shrines and Heritage Sites shall include: a) lands used for many years by a distinct group of Community Members, including men , women, youth, persons with disability and other marginalized groups for the practice of cultural or traditional rites;	
R20. Community Management of Natural Resources	20.13 The free, prior and informed consent of the community shall be sought by concessionaire before the commencement of concession activities and shall in particular: a) Be obtained without coercion, intimidation, manipulation, fraud or bribery.	CSO Comments/ Suggestion: Undue influence should be added to protect marginalized groups/individuals by power and influencer personalities. Include Special programs which benefits persons with disability	a) Be obtained without coercion, intimidation, undue influence , manipulation, fraud or bribery.	

MAP Thematic Working Group Meetings: LMA provided support to additional Multi-Actors Platform on Land Governance and Responsible Agricultural Investment (MAP Liberia Land Platform) thematic working group meetings during the quarter. On May 4 and 5, meetings were held on gender and social inclusion (women, youth, and marginalized groups) and customary land rights and mapping to follow up on the implementation of key recommendations from the National Land Conference of 2022 in Buchanan City, Grand Bassa County, and a planning meeting to develop a workable proposal for a leadership and advocacy training and gender audit of the MAP. The meetings brought together 20 participants (nine females and 11 males) from 16 member organizations. They concluded on the below action points, which, if supported, would contribute to the implementation of recommendations from the National Land Conference of 2022:

- Develop a concept note for five-day Women and Youth Thematic Working Group (WYTWG) leadership and advocacy training and gender audit.
- Recruit a consultant to guide the process;
- Request International Land Coalition (ILC) to provide more information on the gender audit process;
- Establish a technical team to merge the groups' presentations into a workable proposal and budget for the leadership and advocacy training and gender audit.

The project organized and facilitated follow-up meetings on Mapping and Customary Land Formalization on May 25-26, 2023. MAP, in partnership with the LLA and the Customary Land Formalization Thematic Working Group (CLFTWG), held a two-day discussion on the mapping of actors involved in the implementation of CLRF and handing over procedures among actors for support to communities to obtain deeds for their customary land.

TASK 1.3: BUILD THE CAPACITY OF THE LLA, CIVIL SOCIETY, AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO SUPPORT COMMUNITIES TO SECURE LAND RIGHTS

GEP Training: Following weeks of discussions with USAID, the LLA, Lantmäteriet, Forestry Training Institute (FTI), and African Methodist Episcopal (AME) University, the LMA revised its surveyor training approach to shift focus from the basic geomatic education program (GEP) training previously provided through the FTI, to a more advanced GEP diploma program offered through Monrovia-based AME University. The LLA expressed a greater need for this advanced training program, which will target both resident and assistant surveyors currently employed in LLA county offices, rather than a beginner training for surveyors as originally discussed. AME University has already developed a curriculum for this advanced training program, created in collaboration with the LLA and Lantmateriet. The program's first training cohort just graduated on May 31 from the program. The proposed training program will be more intensive than the regular full academic year program, condensed into a four-month, single-semester program, reducing the overall costs of the program without sacrificing quality or relevancy.

In addition to the advanced training program, LMA has discussed supporting an equipment procurement for the LLA, led by Lantmäteriet, with additional support from Parley and Landesa. The equipment procurement will align with the enhanced skills surveyors will have in county offices from two rounds of the proposed advanced surveyor training. Currently, several of the LLA county offices have been recently refurbished, including LMA's three counties of operation, Lofa, Nimba and Bong. However, these refurbished offices that are now staffed with trained surveyors all lack the surveying equipment needed to provide standard surveying services from county offices, which continue to rely on Monrovia for this specific support. This delays all CLRF activities as Monrovia has limited capacity for providing support to counties across the country. The lack of equipment also severely limits county offices in generating much needed revenues for services. The provision of equipment to county offices will greatly enhance their capacity to provide necessary services. Grants will be issued in the coming months to advance this effort.

2.2 OBJECTIVE 2: COMMUNITIES PLAN AND MANAGE COMMUNAL LAND FOR PRODUCTIVE USE AND SUSTAINABLE NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

TASK 2.1 PROVIDE COMMUNITIES WITH LAND MANAGEMENT PLANNING RESOURCES AND GUIDANCE

The LMA has shared updated and approved templates for sustainable land use plans to be used by CLDMCs, along with a guide on how to use the template and how to engage community members in the process, with CSO partners for incorporation into all CLDMC capacity development activities. More direct support to assist CLDMCs to complete the LUP template will be provided in Q4 and subsequent quarters.

TASK 2.2 COLLABORATE WITH THE LLA AND CLDMCS TO ESTABLISH, IMPLEMENT, AND UPDATE LAND USE PLANS

Planned for next quarters.

TASK 2.3: ASSIST CLDMCS TO ESTABLISH FAIR PARTNERSHIPS WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR THAT GENERATE REVENUE

Private Sector Engagement: LMA hired a PSE Consultant, [REDACTED], who joined the LMA team to support the three key deliverables for Objective 3 as well as the PSE Officer's capacity to implement the LMA PSE strategy. The key outcomes of this consultancy are:

1. Create a training module for local partners on how to engage private sector partners ultimately for CLDMCs;
2. Perform a desk study on applicable strategies, and interview at least two CLDMCs, to produce a guide to lay out strategies on how CLDMCs can negotiate and engage with the private sector;
3. Perform a desk study on applicable strategies, and interview at least two CLDMCs, to develop a model business plan on how communities will transact with their land to the benefit of members;
4. Produce a report on the legal and political feasibility of tax incentives for companies partnering with communities on an equitable basis; and
5. Advise on the development of targeted communities' Land Use Plans in regards to bolstering opportunities for PSE.

The following activities took place to further the efforts in connecting communities with the private sector:

- LMA met with Orange Liberia Digital Director, Mr. [REDACTED]. Discussions focused on digital solutions for economic empowerment of rural women and improved access to markets and learning opportunities that have been supported by UN Women in Liberia. The Orange "Buy from Women" platform was developed after a pilot with women cooperatives that operate in cassava and cereal value chains. The project was launched last quarter and was designed to target 1,200 rural women across the country, starting with the five counties of Bong, Nimba, Bomi, Grand Bassa, and Margibi. LMA will strive to link its communities in the counties where it operates with this important initiative.
- On May 24, 2023 the LMA leadership team and PSE officer attended a meeting with the USAID Economic Growth (EG) team at the U.S. Embassy in Monrovia. The EG team shared information about the projects implemented under its office and priorities around conservation, economic growth, and private sector engagement. Specific activities were identified where there might be opportunities for collaboration. The EG team also agreed to share contact information for BRAC, Give Directly, Smallholder Farmers Cooperatives, Africa Trade and Investment (ATI) and several organizations involved in conservation work.
- LMA PSE Consultant and PSE Officer also conducted informational interviews in Telemu, Palama Clan/ Salayea District, Wanwoma/ Kolahun District, Fissebu Town/ Zorzor District in Lofa County and Gokai in Kpatawee clan, Bong County, June 5 – 9 2023, which brought together local

authorities, Town Chiefs, Women Chairpersons, youth leaders, CLDMC members and other community members. During the meetings, the team used a questionnaire to gather information on community investment ideas, existing business negotiations, CLDMCs financial strength, and challenges that the private sector might face. The team also discussed issues on building relationships with local authorities, and encouraging smallholder farmers that are actively involved in cocoa, palm, cassava, and fish farming to work with the CLDMCs through private sector engagement.

Key findings from these interviews showed that:

- There is a general lack of farming tools and agricultural inputs (seeds, fertilizer) needed to increase production in cocoa, palm, and cassava farming;
- CLDMCs lack the knowledge and skills needed to effectively negotiate with private sector partners and to manage funds;
- It is generally perceived that women lack the strength for many agriculture activities, as well as any input into household finances. They also lack technical training;
- Lack of capital for investment;
- Constraints to private sector engagement include road access, water availability for irrigation, storage capacity and farm mechanization.

LMA drafted a private sector MoU and a PSE training guide that are currently being finalized. The Project is planning to conduct private sector negotiation training in the next quarter for 74 CLDMCs in Lofa and Bong Counties, its three implementing partners and four grantees.

2.3 OBJECTIVE 3: WOMEN, YOUTH, AND OTHER MARGINALIZED GROUPS PARTICIPATE IN AND BENEFIT FROM COMMUNAL LAND MANAGEMENT.

TASK 3.1: ENGAGE TRADITIONAL LEADERS AND MEN FOR IMPROVED AND PEACEFUL POWER-SHARING

Planned for next quarters.

TASK 3.2: DEVELOP THE LEADERSHIP CAPACITIES OF WOMEN, YOUTH, PWDS AND OTHER MARGINALIZED GROUPS

During the quarter, LMA produced a draft manual on best practices for leadership building. The manual will be used to build the leadership skills of the women, youth, PWDs, and other marginalized groups through best practices targeting 11 LMA communities in Lofa.

Women's Land Rights and Participation on CLDMCs: In the past, women did not fully participate in the CLRF process. Women noted the main factors that prevented them from participating include:

1. They were not informed about meetings
2. Cultural barriers
3. Difficult for male counterparts to select women to participate in land meetings
4. Women are historically less valued in discussions on land and land ownership

Therefore, on May 21 – June 3, 2023, LMA conducted women's land rights trainings and focus group discussions with women to encourage their participation in the governance structure of CLDMCs. The Project conducted the training in three of the five communities in Quardu Gboni Districts, in the following towns: Sarkonadu Town, Saygbama Community, Nyanma Kamadu Town, Womamai Community, Kanela Town, Wangolodu Community, and Sarmodu Town, Sylakore. LMA highlighted the importance of women's participation, which led to a strong turnout of women participants in these communities.

During the week of June 19 and June 26, LMA also conducted awareness raising activities targeting women, youth and PWDs on land rights in Yarpuah Town, Vavala Clan, Salayea District, and town hall meetings in Nassadu Town, Womama Clan, Quardu Bondi District. The team stressed the importance women, youths and PWDs being involved in land discussions, especially given the fact that women are the generally the ones making more use of the land for farming purposes. In addition, the youth are the future leaders of the society and will also become elder and future landlords and their participation in these activities will help them better understand the need for and benefits of more inclusion. More than ten women participated in the meeting and were active participants. The meeting brought together a total of 39 participants, 21 men and 13 women, which included 5 youth.



Figure 8: FGD in Miaplay Yeezlay and Miaplay Bonnah, Nimba county, encouraging women to participate in the governance structure/CLDMCs

2.4 OBJECTIVE 4: COMMUNITIES UTILIZE ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION (ADR) TO RESOLVE DISPUTES AND GRIEVANCES

The three key tasks of this objective were all advanced through one activity, the development of the Land ADR Training Manual and Training Module development, described below.

TASK 4.1: IMPROVE THE AVAILABILITY AND CAPACITY OF ADR PRACTICES

In addition to the manual and module development described below, the LMA also conducted community conversations focused on ADR.

Community conversations to diversify representation on ADR bodies: The Community Conversations initiative aims to create an inclusive and collaborative environment where individuals engage in open discussions. The primary goal is to promote diversity within ADR bodies in customary communities. The initiative seeks to evaluate the existing knowledge, skills, and practices related to ADR, as well as gain insights into traditional dispute resolution methods at the community level.

The program targeted ten communities in Lofa and Bong Counties: three communities in Vahun, and four communities in Kolahun Districts in Lofa, as well as three communities in Bong. The activity ran from June 27 to July 9, 2023. LMA began the conversation in Vahun District and engaged the Lower and Center Guma communities on June 29 and 30. The project will continue engaging with the remaining communities in the next quarter. In the Lower Guma Community, the conversation took place in Folima Town, with the participation of 20 individuals (13 male and 7 female). In the Center Guma community, 21 stakeholders, comprising 13 male and 8 female participants, gathered at the Vahun Town hall for a full day of dialogue aimed at diversifying representation on ADR bodies.

During the conversations, participants' existing knowledge and skills regarding ADR practices, procedures, and the inclusion of women, youth, and PWDs were assessed. Several gaps were identified and documented, including:

- One of the two communities has formed its ADR bodies, but these bodies are not properly structured.

- The structure of ADR/traditional resolution practices in the visited communities does not align with ADR best practices, and the upcoming ADR procedures for Liberia, which require that resolution practices be inclusive of women, youth and other marginalized groups included.
- Women, youth, and PWDs are not included in the formation of ADR or traditional resolution bodies.



Figure 9: LMA Community Conversations aiming to diversify representation on ADR bodies, Folima Town, Lower Guma Clan, Vahun District, Lofa County

The identified gaps highlight the need for interventions and improvements to ensure more inclusive and effective ADR processes within the communities.

TASK 4.2: INCREASE AWARENESS OF APPROPRIATE ADR CHANNELS FOR RESOLVING LAND RELATED DISPUTES

See activity description of the training manual and module below.

TASK 4.3: ENHANCE CIVIL SOCIETY'S ROLE IN ADVANCING LAND ADR POLICY AND LEGISLATION

In addition to the Manual and Module development described below the LMA team also held meetings with the LMA leadership, including the HO Project Director, with Mr. [REDACTED] and others of the Ministry of Justice ADR program. In this meeting held in May 2023 the MOJ was able to share the status of the ADR policy and legislation development, and sought support from LMA for high level STTA to support the drafting of the regulations. A consultancy is planned for next quarter to provide this support and advance deliverables on ADR policy and legislation advancement.

Land ADR Training Manual and Module Development: On May 10 and 11, LMA organized separate consultative meetings with the Ministry of Justice ADR Department (MOJ-ADR) and the LLA-ADR Unit to collaborate on the development of an ADR training manual to be used for training CLDMC members and others in ADR in all LMA targeted communities. MOJ-ADR agreed to work with the LMA to develop the manual from the current National ADR Manual, which is very broad and not specifically focused on land issues. The purpose of this exercise was to conduct a peer review of the existing ADR manuals independently used by both institutions for resolving disputes from different angles. Both institutions were engaged separately to gather their perspectives on ADR and identify best practices.

A manual development workshop took place from June 12 – 16, 2023. Participants of the working session included LLA, MOJ, SDI, TDS, RRF, Parley Liberia, Green Advocate International (GAI), Liberian Initiative for Developmental Service (LIDS), and Sustainable Health, Agriculture, Protection and Economic Empowerment (SHAPE). The purpose of this was to develop a training manual for the rollout of ADR training in the customary land sector. The focus of this training was to scrutinize the dispute resolution

documents of MOJ, LLA, LMA and to gather other relevant information to develop a practical training manual that will be used by different CSOs, CBOs, and traditional leaders to clearly understand the ADR training in their different communities and to promote the inclusion of women, youth and PWD in the decision-making processes concerning customary lands.

Stakeholders presented their views and observations for incorporation into the manual. Discussions focused on private land disputes in customary communities, where elites acquire more land than what the original owners anticipated. Another issue was the dispute between concessions and community land, which required the team to choose appropriate wording that best aligned with the objectives of the manual. The team also addressed concerns related to other claims and tribal certificate ownership.

The ADR training manual for customary communities will focus on addressing community grievances that could be resolved swiftly through the use of traditional ADR mechanisms at the community level, without the involvement of LMA, donors or LLA, ultimately avoiding court actions or government interventions. Its objectives include:

- a. To improve the understanding of the CLDMC on ADR processes;
- b. To simplify the processes in such that local leaders, CBOs and other stakeholders will understand and explain the ADR process whenever there is a dispute at their community level;
- c. To expose CLDCMs to the basic understanding of the ADR concept in simple language.

The training includes the following sections:

- a. Introduction
- b. Module 1: The Nature of Land Conflict in the context of Customary Land in Liberia
- c. Module 2: Dispute Resolution Mechanisms
- d. Module 3: Alternative Dispute Resolution
- e. Module 4: Gender-Responsive Land Dispute Resolution Mechanisms
- f. Module 5: Access to Justice in Liberia

3. COORDINATION ACTIVITIES

LLA Coordination: Following coordination meetings facilitated by the LMA during the quarter, the team developed a process document and related diagram for properly handing over communities supported through the CLF process. This need arose as there have been many reports of overlap reported to the LLA, a few of which involved the LMA. Coordination meetings with the LLA and other implementing partners were organized to address this reoccurring problem and how best to resolve it. A draft of the protocol was developed by the LMA utilizing the feedback provided by implementing partners through the coordination meetings.

LMA collaborated with the LLA to review and validate the status of eight communities in Bong and Lofa (Vavala, Palama, Wonegizi, Viawulu & Bluyeama II and three additional communities in Lofa - Lower Rankorlie, Upper Waum, Lower Tengia) assumed to have completed boundary harmonization and negotiation, while collecting evidence/data about their readiness to move forward with their confirmatory surveys.

Preliminary findings showed:

- A couple communities are at the proximity of district boundaries with previous boundary disputes/disagreements. If left unaddressed, this may pose risks to implementing the confirmatory survey.
- Most of the internal boundaries have been harmonized but there have been changes to some communities' governance structures (CLDMCs and BHCs) as the result of deaths, movement out

of the communities, lack of meetings and the time gap since boundary harmonization and negotiations took place, requiring validation of status.

- There are other projects active in target communities providing bad information about boundary harmonization and negotiation, creating confusion. LMA and LLA teams were able to provide clarity on the issues raised about boundary harmonization and negotiation to these communities, resolving the confusion.

LMA is currently categorizing the targeted eight communities using the data collected into the following four distinct categories:

1. Communities ready to move forward with their confirmatory survey (Category 1).
2. Communities requiring a one-day training for CLDMCs, followed by the formation of Joint Boundary Clearing Committees, then the Confirmatory Survey (Category 2).
3. Communities that have a single boundary disagreement with one external clan/district that will require a public consultation (Category 3).
4. Communities that have changes in their governance structures, and are in proximity to district boundaries that may require LMA to facilitate a one-day meeting of the General Assembly and training of the CLDMCs followed by the establishment of Joint Boundary Clearing Committees, hosting/facilitating a district level public consultation, followed by the confirmatory survey (Category 4).

The team conducted a technical follow-up meeting with the Surveying and Mapping Unit at the LLA on June 14 to discuss and plan for the upcoming Confirmatory Surveys. The LMA team met with [REDACTED], Executive Director, Land Administration, and Dr. [REDACTED] to share and discuss LMA's proposed systematic approach to completing boundary harmonization and confirmatory survey, and the composition of the team, logistics and technology. The survey team from the LLA main office will be mobilized to meet the LMA team in the beginning of the next quarter. Confirmatory survey activities are set to begin in July.

Flora and Fauna International Coordination: In June, LMA hosted technical meetings with Flora and Fauna International (FFI) to clarify potential collaboration and roles in two communities in Lofa, (Wangolodu and Wonegizi). Both communities border forests and protected lands that FFI has been supporting through other initiatives. The two teams exchanged information and identified roles and responsibilities given that these communities have wildlife corridors. They agreed that LMA will take the lead, particularly on CLRf implementation, but will work with FFI in consideration of the surrounding landscape that includes the flag line, conservation area, and the wildlife corridors. All community engagements will be done together to avoid any mixed messaging, with LMA's local partner facilitating all community interactions. The joint team will also review satellite images and geo-spatial data of both landscapes, provided by FFI, that show the flag lines, conservation areas and related wildlife corridors.

The first meeting in Wangolodu established that the teams will jointly review and update by-laws, their community profile, and community sketch map, while discussing next steps involving governance structures, CLDMC formation, and related governance trainings. In Wonegizi, the teams agreed that LMA will jointly begin working on boundary disagreement settlement between Bomi Hills (community in Wonegizi) and Wakesu (community in Viawulu) with the intent to conduct their confirmatory survey immediately with the LLA after clearing the disputed boundary.

The outcome of this collaboration may be a unique case study for the CLRf process with overlays of conservation and wildlife protection, where and how communities are or maybe impacted by conservation, wildlife protection and protected lands given CSI and the relationships between adjacent communities.

4. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

A. TRAINING IN ELECTRONIC DATA COLLECTION USING KOBO COLLECT

From June 16 – 28, 2023, the project team comprising of ECODIT M&E Specialist, DCOP and M&E Intern conducted two major training activities for the Project’s four grantees in Bong, Lofa, and Nimba Counties on data collection and internal data quality assessment (IDQA). The DCOP conducted a session in two of the counties on CLRF data requirements and reporting. A detailed reporting of data per LLA requirements and sources of the data was explained. The training was delivered in two forms: a comprehensive presentation on data collection using the Kobo Toolbox, and a practical session illustrating various features of the platform on participants’ phones and tablets. There were 21 participants from the four CBOs (16 males, five females).

B. INTERNAL DATA QUALITY ASSESSMENT

The Project conducted an internal data quality assessment (IDQA) with its grantees and implementing partners from June 16-28 as part of LMA MEL Policy requirements. Its purposes are:

- (a) To assess the effectiveness of LMA IPs and Grantees’ MEL system,
- (b) To train IPs and Grantees on CLRF data requirements and reporting.
- (c) To identify the location of the source documents (routine and survey data) for all reported data,
- (d) To provide practical recommendations to LMA IPs and grantees on how the project can strengthen its data collection and reporting.

IDQA comprised two parts: 1) data verification, and 2) system assessment. This report thus provides an account of the system assessment, the strengths, good practices, and gaps of LMA grantees’ and implementing partners’ M&E systems. The system assessment findings are in specific M&E system functional areas, i.e., M&E structure, functions and capabilities, data-collection and reporting forms/tools, data management processes, standard operating procedures (SOPs) for ensuring data quality and data management system.

The LLA Customary Land Rights Formalization checklist was used to review data with partners and to clearly understand what data requirements are in CLRF activities and or reporting.

The findings of the M&E system assessment will help identify data quality issues and areas of improvement in the data management and reporting system that would need to be strengthened to increase confidence in the system and data reported as well as readiness for an external data quality audit.

C. FY23 Q3 PROGRESS NARRATIVE

I. INTERMEDIATE RESULT (IR 1): COMMUNITIES OBTAIN DEEDS TO THEIR CUSTOMARY LAND

EG.10.4-5 Number of parcels with relevant parcel information corrected or incorporated into an official land administration system (whether a system for the property registry, cadaster, or an integrated system) as a result of USG assistance.

LMA will report on this indicator once a final target has been agreed upon with USAID as this is directly linked to the Liberia Land Authority issuing deeds to the communities.

1.1.1: Number of land surveyors successfully completing certification from the Geomatic Education Program (GEP) the Forestry Training Institute (FTI)

Project support to GEP training is under review by USAID and once completed, LMA will start reporting on this indicator.

1.1.2: Number of steps in the six-step CLRF process completed by communities (total number of steps across all communities supported)

Reported Annually - During Q3 implementation, LMA completed one step of the Community Self Identification (CSI) in ten communities in Nimba and they are awaiting certification by the LLA.

1.1.3: Number of regulations or guidelines drafted or advanced with the LLA to guide communities and CSOs through the steps of the CLRF process.

Reported Annually - LMA advanced four regulations which are: the LRA's Gazetted Regulations-2022 with the LLA, tribal certificate, by-laws and community management on natural resources to guide communities and CSOs through the steps of the CLRF process.

1.1.4: Number of CSOs and CBOs trained to support communities in the CLRF process.

During Q3, the M&E team conducted a training course for the four grantees in Lofa, Bong, and Nimba Counties in the use of electronic data collection to support communities in the Customary Land Rights Formalization processes.

II. INTERMEDIATE RESULT (IR 2): COMMUNITIES PLAN AND MANAGE CUSTOMARY LAND FOR PRODUCTIVE USE

2.1.1: Number of CLDMCs with land use plans that are actively implemented and regularly updated.

Although LMA is required to report on this indicator starting in Year 2, the project has planned to conduct training for CLDMC members with land use plans that are implemented actively and updated on a regular basis in Quarter 4.

2.1.2: Number of CLDMCs that have increased revenue.

Reported Annually – During Q3 implementation, LMA supported three CLDMCs in Vahun District (Upper Guma, Lower Guma and Central Guma) and they are collecting revenue from pit sawyers.

2.1.3 Number of individuals provided training, information, and/or legal advice with respect to negotiating contracts and agreements with the private sector.

The project is planning trainings in Quarter 4.

III. INTERMEDIATE RESULT (IR 3): WOMEN, YOUTH, AND OTHER MARGINALIZED POPULATIONS PARTICIPATE IN AND BENEFIT FROM CUSTOMARY LAND MANAGEMENT

3.1.1: Number of CLDMCs in which women, youth, and other marginalized groups hold leadership positions.

Reported Annually - During Q3 implementation, LMA supported nine CLMDCs in Lofa county (Wanwoma, Wulukoha, Tahamba, Hassala, Upper Guma, Central Guma, Lower Tengia, Upper Waum, Lower Guma) all of which have women, youth, and other marginalized groups as members in leadership positions (chairperson, vice chair, secretary, treasury, or any other leadership position even in sub-groups)

3.1.2: Number of CLDMCs that prioritize agreements with private sector entities specifically with women- and/or youth-led community enterprises or associations.

Reported Annually - During Q3 implementation, there is no CLDMC that has prioritized agreements with private sector entities specifically with women-and/or youth-led community enterprises or associations however, there are plans to include five target communities such as: Upper Waum, Lower Rankollie, Telemue, Wanwoma and Kpatawee in Lofa and Bong respectively during Quarter 4 of this year.

IV. LMA WILL REPORT ON THIS INDICATOR IN YEAR 2. INTERMEDIATE RESULT (IR 4): LAND DISPUTES AND GRIEVANCES RESOLVED APPROPRIATELY THROUGH ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

4.1.1: Number of CLDMCs that have a grievance resolution mechanism.

Reported Annually - During Q3, LMA identified nine CLDMCs (Wanwoma, Wulukoha, Tahamba, Hassala, Upper Guma, Central Guma, Lower Tengia, Upper Waum, Lower Guma) with grievance resolution mechanisms in place in Lofa county.

EG 10.4-3 Number of disputed land and property rights cases resolved by local authorities, contractors, mediators, or courts as a result of USG assistance.

During Q3, we have reports of cases that have been resolved, but they can only be counted toward the indicator once LMA has evidence of MoUs submitted.

Cross-Cutting: Number of meetings or other forums held between CSOs/CBOs and the GOL with the purpose of advancing policy, legislation and/or regulations on ADR.

During Q3, LMA held two advocacy meetings and four meetings on coordination and implementation of the LRA of 2018 and regulations between CSOs/CBOs and the GOL with the purpose of advancing policy, legislation and/or regulations on ADR.

Cross-Cutting: Number of public awareness raising activities on land management issues and community land rights.

During Q3 implementation, LMA raised seven information and awareness, two boundary negotiation and dispute resolution meetings, two public consultations and one radio live talk show on public awareness activities on land management issues and community land rights.

A. PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

#	Type of Indicator	Indicator	Result Measured by Indicator	Reporting Frequency	Data Source & Collection Method	Baseline (Source) Date / Value	Year 2 Target	Q3 Achievement	Percent of Achievement	Life of Project / End-line	Comment
1	Standard	EG.10.4-5: Number of parcels with relevant parcel information corrected or incorporated into an official land administration system (whether a system for the property registry, cadaster, or an integrated system) as a result of USG assistance	IR 1: Communities Obtain Deeds to their Customary Land	Annually	Collected from land agencies' databases annually, CLDMCs, or organizations who report to the LLA with clear evidence of formalized land rights in hard copies or electronic forms	0	TBD	-	0%	TBD	Reported Annually The LOP target will be determined in consultation with USAID
2	Custom	1.1.1: Number of county-based land surveyors successfully completing certification from the Geomatic Education Program (GEP) the Forestry Training Institute (FTI).	IR 1: Communities Obtain Deeds to their Customary Land	Annually	Individuals receiving certificates in surveying technology with confirmation from the FTI.	0	20	-	0%	20	Reported Annually Project support to GEP training is under review by USAID.
3	Custom	1.1.2: Number of steps in the six-step CLRF process completed by communities (total number of steps across all communities supported).	IR 1: Communities Obtain Deeds to their Customary Land	Annually	Field reports from IPs and LLA, partners/grantees working with communities	0	0	-	0%	TBD	Reported Annually But LMA has completed the CSI step in (10) ten communities in Nimba county
4	Custom	1.1.3: Number of regulations or guidelines drafted or advanced with the LLA to guide communities and CSOs through the steps of the CLRF process	IR 1: Communities Obtain Deeds to their Customary Land	Annually	LMA activity reports and LLA records; copies of proposed, drafted or adopted guidelines	0	0	-	0%	4	Reported Annually But however, during Q3 implementation LMA advanced four regulations
5	Custom	1.1.4: Number of CSOs and CBOs trained to support communities in the CLRF process	IR 1: Communities Obtain Deeds to their Customary Land	Quarterly	Completed participants attendance forms, attendance records. Records from IPs. Annual reports from CSOs. Direct observations by LMA staff.	0	20	4	20%	70	LMA trained four grantees on the use of electronic data collection (Kobo Collect) to support the CLRF process
6	Custom	2.1.1: Number of CLDMCs with land use plans that are actively implemented and regularly updated.	IR 2: Communities Plan and Manage Customary Land for Productive Use	Quarterly	CLDMC and IP records collected by LMA staff	0	5	0	0%	15	The process is ongoing
7	Custom	2.1.2: Number of CLMDCs that have increased revenue	IR 2: Communities Plan and Manage Customary Land for Productive Use	Annual	CLDMC financial record review conducted by LMA staff	0	4	-	75%	10	Reported Annually but LMA identified three CLDMCs that have increased revenue

#	Type of Indicator	Indicator	Result Measured by Indicator	Reporting Frequency	Data Source & Collection Method	Baseline (Source) Date / Value	Year 2 Target	Q3 Achievement	Percent of Achievement	Life of Project / End-line	Comment
8	Custom	2.1.3 Number of individuals provided training, information, and/or legal advice with respect to negotiating contracts and agreements with the private sector.	IR 2: Communities Plan and Manage Customary Land for Productive Use	Quarterly	LMA training and other activity records. Completed participant attendance forms.	0	50	0	0%	150	The project is planning associated trainings in Q4.
9	Custom	3.1.1: Number of CLDMCs in which women, youth, and other marginalized groups hold leadership positions	IR 3: Women, Youth, and Other Marginalized Populations Participate in and Benefit from Customary Land Management	Annually	CLDMC elections, LMA staff collected records	0	0	-	0%	TBD	Reported Annually However, LMA supported nine CLDMCs that have women, youth, and members of other marginalized groups as members in leadership positions
10	Custom	3.1.2: Number of CLDMCs that prioritize agreements with private sector entities specifically with women- and/or youth-led community enterprises or associations.	IR 3: Women, Youth, and Other Marginalized Populations Participate in and Benefit from Customary Land Management	Annually	CLDMC bylaws and LMA internal records reviewed	0	4	-	0%	12	Reported Annually
11	Custom	4.1.1: Number of CLDMCs that have a grievance resolution mechanism.	IR 4: Land Disputes and Grievances Resolved Appropriately through Alternative Dispute Resolution	Annually	CLDMC bylaws and LMA internal records reviewed	0	8	-	113%	12	Reported Annually However, LMA supported nine CLDMCs that have grievance resolution mechanism.
12	Standard	EG 10.4-3 Number of disputed land and property rights cases resolved by local authorities, contractors, mediators, or courts as a result of USG assistance	IR 4: Land Disputes and Grievances Resolved Appropriately through Alternative Dispute Resolution	Quarterly	LMA/IP records that report on ADR efforts. CLDMC-level meetings that mention ADR activities.	0	0	0	0%	TBD after communities are selected	During Q3, we have reports of cases that have been resolved, but LMA can only count those cases toward the indicator once LMA has evidence of MoUs submitted.

#	Type of Indicator	Indicator	Result Measured by Indicator	Reporting Frequency	Data Source & Collection Method	Baseline (Source) Date / Value	Year 2 Target	Q3 Achievement	Percent of Achievement	Life of Project / End-line	Comment
13	Custom	Cross-Cutting: Number of meetings or other forums held between CSOs/CBOs and the GOL with the purpose of advancing policy, legislation and/or regulations on ADR	Cross- Cutting	Quarterly		0	3	6	200%	12	Advocacy review of CLRF recommendations from the land conference, LRA coordination meetings on community handover by IPs
14	Custom	Cross-Cutting: Number of public awareness raising activities on land management issues and community land rights	Cross- Cutting	Quarterly	LMA Activities	0	10	12	120%	55	During Q3, LMA implemented twelve awareness raising activities

5. KEY ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT QUARTER

The following is a list of key activities LMA plans to conduct during the next quarter.

- Production of information, education and communication (IEC), and behavioral change communication (BCC) activities. IEC/BCC materials and media arrangement by Talking Drum Studios
- Ongoing planning with project partners
- Pause & reflect, and FY23 Work Plan validation workshop
- Prepare and submit Year 2 Annual Progress Report
- Prepare and submit Annual Work Plan
- Coordinate with the LLA to complete confirmatory surveys for up to 10 communities
- Begin support for at least 20 students to participate in the advanced GEP training at the African Methodist Episcopal University and procure survey equipment for at least two county offices
- Train at least 15 CSOs and/or CBOs to facilitate steps in the CLRF process
- Provide training to the LLA customers services unit on Land Registration and Titling
- Develop a model business plan on how communities will transact with their land to the benefit of members
- Develop tools and best practices for community land use
- Develop tools and best practices for community land use planning and PSE
- Outreach to journalists to write articles on public private sector partnership processes in target communities
- Provide training to CBOs on sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV)
- Conduct awareness raising and sensitization on the consequences of SGBV on community's development
- Conduct social behavior change campaigns, with messages targeting men and boys
- Develop and launch a knowledge sharing platform for women and youth established in at least three communities to share experiences and learn from each other
- Training program targeting ADR bodies designed and implemented, including curricula and materials
- Develop documentation associated to any completed steps of the CLRF process.
- Continued assessments of community need for services from the LLA at county and national level

6. MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

Staffing: Below is the updated list of current LMA staff members.

LMA Staffing Plan

NAMES	POSITIONS
[REDACTED]	Chief of Party
[REDACTED]	Deputy Chief of Party
[REDACTED]	Land Management and Administration Specialist
[REDACTED]	Gender, Equity, and Inclusion Specialist
[REDACTED]	Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist
[REDACTED]	Communications and Community Engagement Specialist
[REDACTED]	Private Sector Engagement Specialist
[REDACTED]	Senior Operations and Grants Manager
[REDACTED]	Grants and Subcontracts Manager
[REDACTED]	Accountant
[REDACTED]	Driver
[REDACTED]	Driver

During this quarter, support was provided by ECODIT home office Program Director, [REDACTED], who traveled to Liberia in May on an approved visit to provide support to the LMA team on several activities, which included but were not limited to:

- Completing orientation for the new COP and building strong working relationships through clear expectation setting;
- Worked with the DCOP and M&E Specialist on updating the indicator table preparing the team for a MEL plan review and updated document for USAID;
- Worked directly with the COP on a review of the contract and budget, identifying areas to refine or change in the upcoming budget realignment and contract modification;
- Met with [REDACTED], PSE consultant, and the LMA PSE Officer to review the consultant SOW, plans for their trip, and agree on key outputs;
- Met with Lantmäteriet, Parley and other donor supported stakeholders to discuss shared vision and troubleshooting for advancing the surveying sector in line with the LLA; and
- Led a review and revision of the LMA's Security Manual in preparation for upcoming elections.

General administrative and logistics support was provided to implementing partners, grantees and LMA technical staff conducting activities in Nimba, Bong and Lofa Counties and HO visiting staff.

Consultant Support

Through the quarter, HO continued to engage LTTA consultant [REDACTED] throughout FY2023Q3 to provide technical guidance to the team. Her contributions included updating the implementation plan and overall strategy development.

As discussed above the LMA also launched a new consultancy with [REDACTED] to support deliverables under PSE.

Financial Progress

The following financial summary provides a snapshot of actual expenditures for the quarter ending June 30, 2023.

[REDACTED]

Implementation Challenges: LMA continues to encounter challenges particularly around boundary harmonization for community confirmatory surveys. For example, the project has worked with the Fissebu community in Lofa since project inception and has not yet been able to move the community to the final stage of received their deed as there are still additional boundary points in question.

Another obstacle has been the challenges LMA has faced in collecting all the documentation from communities that LMA took over from previous IPs. Some of these communities do not have the documents in their possession, yet neither do previous IPs, or they have yet to provide LMA with copies. It then presents a challenge to clearly know if the steps were correctly done or completed. LMA and partners are still tracking down these documents, but the process has been very slow or the responses have not been favorable.

Another key challenge is that LMA took over some communities that had completed CLRF activities back in 2017 or before the LRA was passed. These communities' activities were pilots and some had a lot of missteps or incomplete documentation and procedures. Example of these are five communities in Lofa (Barkedu, Saygbama, Womama, Sylakore and Wangolodu Clans). The work and steps in these communities will need to be repeated or updated before proceeding to other steps, even though these communities had originally reported that they had completed these steps.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: LMA COMMUNITY CLRF TRACKER

The tracker shows all the communities that the LMA expects to be working in by the end of Year 2. At the end of Y2Q3, the LMA had started work in most of the target communities in Bong, Lofa, and Nimba.

	Community	Activity Progress for Customary Land Formalization						Community Title Registered
		Community Self-Identification	Draft By-laws*	CLDMC Formation*	Participatory Mapping	Boundary Harmonization	Confirmatory Survey	
Bong County								
1	Kpatawee		Completed	Completed	Completed	Not started	Not started	Not started
2	Kporyorquelleh	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Not started	Not started	Not started
3	Gwilapolu Clan	Completed	Not started	Not started	Not started	Not started	Not started	Not started
4	Kpaiquellie Clan	Completed	Not started	Not started	Not started	Not started	Not started	Not started
5	Zota Clan	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Not started	Not started	Not started
6	Menquelleh Comm	Completed	Completed	Completed	Not Started	Not started	Not started	Not started
7	Gbanshay	Ongoing	Not Started	Not started	Not started	Not started	Not started	Not started
8	Mawuota	Ongoing	Not started	Not started	Not started	Not started	Not started	Not started
9	Seansue	Ongoing	Not started	Not started	Not started	Not started	Not started	Not started
10	Nyallai	Ongoing	Not started	Not started	Not started	Not started	Not started	Not started
11	Walahune	Ongoing	Not started	Not started	Not started	Not started	Not started	Not started
Lofa County								
12	Palama Clan	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Ongoing	Not started
13	Vavala Clan	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Ongoing	Not started
14	Fissebu	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Ongoing	Not started
15	Hassala	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Ongoing	Not started	Not started
16	Tahamba	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Ongoing	Not started	Not started
17	Wanwoma	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Ongoing	Not started	Not started
18	Wulukoha	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Ongoing	Not started	Not started
19	Upper Guma	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Ongoing	Not started	Not started
20	Lower Guma	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Ongoing	Not started	Not started
21	Central Guma	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Ongoing	Not started	Not started
22	Saygbama Clan	Completed	Completed	Not started	Not started	Not started	Not started	Not started
23	Womama Clan	Completed	Completed	Not started	Not started	Not started	Not started	Not started
24	Sylakore Clan	Completed	Completed	Not started	Not started	Not started	Not started	Not started
25	Wangolodu Clan	Completed	Completed	Not started	Not started	Not started	Not started	Not started
26	Barkedu Township	Completed	Completed	Not started	Not started	Not started	Not started	Not started
27	Lower Tengia	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Not started	Not started
28	Lower Rankorlie	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Not started	Not started
29	Upper Tengia	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Ongoing	Not started
30	Upper Waum	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Ongoing	Not started

	Community	Activity Progress for Customary Land Formalization						Community Title Registered
		Community Self-Identification	Draft By-laws*	CLDMC Formation*	Participatory Mapping	Boundary Harmonization	Confirmatory Survey	
31	Upper Rankorlie	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Ongoing	Not started
32	Lower Waum	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Ongoing	Not started
33	Viawulu	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Ongoing	Not started
34	Wonegizi	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Ongoing	Not started
35	Bluyema Zone II	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Ongoing	Not started
36	Yeala	Not Started	Not Started	Not Started	Not Started	Not Started	Not Started	Not Started
Nimba County								
37	Zolowee	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Not started	Not started	Not started
38	Yolowee	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Not started	Not started	Not started
39	Gbassa	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Not started	Not started	Not started
40	Zortapa	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Not started	Not started	Not started
41	Gbosua–Gbeleyee Blein	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Not started	Not started	Not started
42	Gbor Payee	Completed	Not started	Not started	Not started	Not started	Not started	Not started
43	Gbor Zuoplay	Completed	Not started	Not started	Not started	Not started	Not started	Not started
44	Gbor Wehplay	Completed	Not started	Not started	Not started	Not started	Not started	Not started
45	Gbor Gampa	Completed	Not started	Not started	Not started	Not started	Not started	Not started
46	Mia Menfram	Completed	Not started	Not started	Not started	Not started	Not started	Not started
47	Gblah	Completed	Not started	Not started	Not started	Not started	Not started	Not started
48	Zayglay	Completed	Not started	Not started	Not started	Not started	Not started	Not started
49	Zuo Luapa	Completed	Not started	Not started	Not started	Not started	Not started	Not started
50	Bayleglay	Completed	Not started	Not started	Not started	Not started	Not started	Not started
51	Siaplay	Completed	Not started	Not started	Not started	Not started	Not started	Not started
Grand Bassa County								
52	Boeglary Clan	Not started	Not started	Not started	Not started	Not started	Not started	Not started
53	Gee Clan	Not started	Not started	Not started	Not started	Not started	Not started	Not started
54	Blary Clan	Not started	Not started	Not started	Not started	Not started	Not started	Not started
55	Giah Clan	Not started	Not started	Not started	Not started	Not started	Not started	Not started
56	Doewein	Not started	Not started	Not started	Not started	Not started	Not started	Not started
57	Soniwein	Not started	Not started	Not started	Not started	Not started	Not started	Not started
58	Jungle Clan	Not started	Not started	Not started	Not started	Not started	Not started	Not started

APPENDIX 2: QUALITY ASSURANCE AND SURVEILLANCE PLAN TRACKING

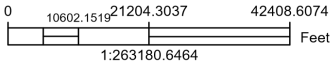
DELIVERABLE/SERVICE REQUIRED	PERFORMANCE STANDARD	AQL	PRIMARY METHOD OF SURVEILLANCE	FREQUENCY	STATUS	COMMENTS
Project Management Deliverables						
Annual Work Plans	Deliverable submitted on time	100%	Document review and approval	Annually, or when revised	Submitted	
Environment Monitoring and Mitigation Plan	Deliverable submitted on time	100%	Document review and approval	Annually, or when revised	Submitted	
Monitoring and Evaluation Plan	Deliverable submitted on time	100%	Document review and approval	Annually, or when revised	Submitted	
Quality Assurance and Surveillance Plan (QASP)	Deliverable submitted on time	100%	Document review and approval	Annually, or when revised	Submitted	
Quarterly Progress Reports	Deliverable submitted on time	100%	Document review and approval	Quarterly	Submitted	
Annual Progress Reports	Deliverable submitted on time	100%	Document review and approval	Annually	Year 1 Submitted	
Accrual's report	Submitted on time	100%	Submission email	Quarterly	Submitted	
Annual Inventory Report	Submitted on time	100%	Submission email	Annually	Submitted	
Reporting on Foreign Taxes	Submitted on time	100%	Submission email	April 16 of each year	Submitted	
Short-Term Consultant Reports, Technical Reports and Other Developed Materials	Deliverables, as needed, submitted on time	95%	Document review	Quarterly	Submitted	
Demobilization/ Disposition Plan	Deliverable submitted on time	100%	Document review and approval	Six months prior to contract end		
Final Report	Deliverable submitted on time	100%	Document review and approval	Contract completion		
Technical Deliverables (TO Section F.4.2)						
Grants Manual	Deliverable submitted on time	100%	Document review and approval	90 days after award, or when revised	Submitted	
Objective I: Communities obtain deeds to their customary land						
Criteria for the selection of target communities completed	Deliverable submitted on time	95%	Document review and approval	Year 1	Completed	
Guide for the registration of customary land (prepared under LGSA) updated	Guides updated, adhering to current land legislation and GOL guidance documentation, including forms and/or templates	95%	Deliverable reviewed and approved	By Year 3		
One costed plan for communities prepared to outline cost for completing the CLRFP per community.	Deliverable approved	95%	Deliverable reviewed and approved	By Year 3		
Training Manual finalized to outline procedures along each step of the CLRFP. The manual will be a living document and will be updated as new trainings are identified.	Scheduled as described in approved work plans(s)	95%	Project records / reports	Quarterly or annually	In process	

DELIVERABLE/SERVICE REQUIRED	PERFORMANCE STANDARD	AQL	PRIMARY METHOD OF SURVEILLANCE	FREQUENCY	STATUS	COMMENTS
Comprehensive evidence-based tools and processes to guide communities to complete all steps for CLRFP finalized	Scheduled as described in approved work plans(s)	85%	Deliverables reviewed/ project records / reports	By Year 3		
Organized system to track and/or store information for registered communities established (e.g., written profiles on the history and makeup of the community, governance bylaws, land use plans, maps, etc.)	Scheduled as described in approved work plans(s)	85%	Deliverables reviewed/ project records / reports	By Year 2, and updated as needed	In place	
Advocacy plan concluded with CSWG and the MAP	Scheduled as described in approved work plan(s)	85%	Deliverables reviewed/ project records / reports / direct observation	Year 1	In process	
Work with CSOs, grantees, and LLA to finalize a coordinated messaging unique to all communities including advocacy messages and leverage innovative channels and medium	Scheduled as described in approved work plan(s)	85%	Project records / reports	Year 1 – 4 <i>*Replicated as new communities are on ramped to the activity</i>	Ongoing	
Methods and procedures for the recruitment of new cohorts or surveyors at the GEP established.	Scheduled as described in approved work plan(s)	85%	Deliverable reviewed/ project reports / direct observation	Year 1	Ongoing discussions with USAID	
An up-to-date needs assessment for services that communities will need from the LLA at county and national level conducted	Deliverable submitted one time. Scheduled as described in approved work plan(s)	95%	Assessment report/ Deliverable review	Year 1	Draft Completed and submitted to USAID for approval	
100 New surveyors trained in modern land surveying technology from the GEP at FTI.	Scheduled as described in approved work plan(s)	85%	# of surveyors trained/ project records/ reports	By Year 4		
100 customary communities registered, and deeds obtained, or deeds at final step ready for LLA to issue	Scheduled as described in approved work plan(s)	85%	Deeds issued by LLA/ Status report of communities CLRF process/ project records/ reports	By Year 4		
Objective 2: Communities Plan and Manage Customary Land for Productive Use						
Template/model for Communities Land Use Plan finalized	Scheduled as described in approved work plan(s)	100%	Deliverables reviewed/ project records/ reports	Year 1	Submitted	
In collaboration with the LLA, review and update the Land Use Plan Template, relying on key lessons learned from implementations at the early stages of the program	Scheduled as described in approved work plan(s)	85%	Deliverables reviewed/ project records/ reports	Year 3		
Produce/revise/finalize community by-laws with a clear outline on mechanism to update and enforce communities land use plans.	Scheduled as described in approved work plan(s)	85%	Project records/ reports	Year 1- 4 <i>*Replicated as new communities are on ramped to the activity</i>	Currently being drafted	

DELIVERABLE/SERVICE REQUIRED	PERFORMANCE STANDARD	AQL	PRIMARY METHOD OF SURVEILLANCE	FREQUENCY	STATUS	COMMENTS
Produce a guide to layout strategies on how CLDMCs can negotiate and engage with the private sector.	Deliverable submitted on time	95%	Deliverable reviewed/ project record/ reports	Year 1	Planning is in process	
Develop a model business plan on how communities will transact with their land to the benefit of members.	Deliverable submitted on time	95%	Deliverable reviewed/ project record/ reports	Year 2	In process	
Produce a report on the legal and political feasibility of tax incentives for companies partnering with communities on an equitable basis	Deliverable submitted on time	95%	Deliverable reviewed/ project record/ reports	Year 2	In process	
Objective 3: Women, Youth, and Other Marginalized Populations Participate in and Benefit from Customary Land Management						
A gender / inclusion analysis developed to assess the impact of implementation on marginalized populations, including women and youth	Deliverable submitted on time	95%	Deliverable reviewed/ project record/ reports	Year 3		
An institutionalized knowledge sharing platform established for women and youth serving on CLDMCs to share experiences	Quality and accessibility of KM platform; number of people accessing the platform	95%	Monitoring platform use/ project record/ reports	Year 2	In process	
Objective 4: Land Disputes and Grievances Resolved Appropriately through Alternative Dispute Resolution						
In collaboration with the LLA, conduct an assessment of local ADR capacity in the counties of operation and recommend a model for dispute resolution	One Deliverable per County selected	85%	Review of deliverables/ project records/ reports	Year 1 – 4 <i>*Replicated if/when new counties are on ramped to the activity</i>	In process	
Standard operating procedures on dispute resolutions produced in collaboration with the LLA.	Deliverable submitted on time	85%	Review of deliverables/ project records/ reports	Year 2	In process	
In collaboration with the LLA and CSOs, support the adoption of a revised Land Dispute Resolution Policy that is consistent with the LLA.	Number of consultative meetings held to discuss draft policy; participation of CSOs/stakeholders	85%	Project records/ reports	Year 2	In process	
Drafting and supporting the adoption of a national ADR legislation.	Number of consultative meetings held to discuss draft policy; participation of CSOs/stakeholders	85%	Review of deliverables/ project records/ reports	Year 3		
Finalize report documenting disputes presented to CLDMCs and the number of those resolved, including dispute resolution success story.	Deliverable submitted on time	95%	Review of deliverable/ project records/ reports	Year 4		

APPENDIX 3: FISSEBU SURVEY MAP



Location	Title	Scale	Date
Fissebu, Lofa County	Confirmatory Survey of Fissebu		December 23, 2022

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