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USAID/Zambia ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INTEGRATED LAND AND RESOURCE GOVERNANCE (ILRG)

Historically, land in Zambia has been perceived as abundant and widely available, however, changing demographics, a growing middle class, and increased allocation of land for investment has led to land scarcity, and increased pressure on the management of wildlife and forest resources.

The USAID Integrated Land and Resources Governance (ILRG) project supports improved land use planning for wildlife and forestry sectors, low cost and accessible land documentation for communities, and strategies to secure land rights, especially for women. The project also develops opportunities for communities to benefit from sustainable natural resource management.

- **Life of Project:** July 2018 - July 2023
- **Geographic Focus:** National level, Lusaka, Central, Eastern, and Muchinga provinces
- **Implementing Partner:** Tetra Tech ARD
- **Chief of Party:** Matt Sommerville
- **Total USAID Funding:** \$3.8 million
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The ILRG project builds capacity of local organizations, district and national government, traditional leaders, and communities to document land and resource rights, and to use this data to better inform land use planning and development decisions.

The project supports a decentralized natural resources management model and encourages active engagement between government authorities and customary leaders on wildlife, forestry and land. ILRG integrates best practices into land and resource policy and legislation through consultative processes. ILRG also works with local partners to pilot progressive legislation and regulations that promote community-based management of natural resources.

ILRG supports the integration of wildlife and forestry into the integrated development planning process. The project also pilots sustainable, community-based natural resource management approaches that reduce conflict, increase biodiversity and carbon sequestration, and generate income for rural communities. ILRG project believes that sustainability will rely on community engagement in administering and documenting rights to land and natural resources, and encouraging community ownership of their development data.

Expected Results

The ILRG project will support the development of land use plans and documenting shared land, wildlife, and forest resource rights that support community game ranching, community forestry and other conservation enterprises. The plans support government departments, community and customary leaders to enforce conservation bylaws. These activities are expected to lead to improved management of 1.5 million hectares of biologically significant areas in the Luangwa and Kafue landscapes through this support.