Land Facility

The Land Facility (LF) is a global programme funded by the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) that supports governments to design, implement, and sustain land governance reforms.



Catalysing multi-stakeholder action on land governance in Zambia

Main partners: ISTT, WLRR, ZIP, UNZA, Geomast CTPD and Corelink

Duration: Oct 2025 – Mar 2026

Country: Zambia



TETRA TECH International Development

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Land Facility supports strengthened coordination and capacity among customary leaders, state institutions, and stakeholders for inclusive land governance and tenure security in Zambia.

Objective: The project in Zambia supports partnership development and coordinated action on customary land governance through technical assistance, facilitation, and engagement linked to emerging national and sub-national initiatives. It aims to catalyse collaboration among government ministries, customary leaders, and other stakeholders to identify and address land and resource governance challenges where customary and state responsibilities overlap. Early efforts focus on trialling practical reforms—such as village and boundary registration—to build trust, demonstrate impact, and generate momentum for wider reforms, including customary land legislation and high-level leadership engagement.

Project goals

- **Strengthen the capacity of rural and peri-urban customary leadership** to deliver more inclusive local land governance and management, including through practical pilots such as village and boundary registration.
- **Improve coordination within and across state institutions** through multi-stakeholder platforms that align customary and statutory land administration roles and responsibilities.
- **Build evidence, trust, and political momentum** for national-level land governance reforms by generating lessons from pilot initiatives and supporting high-level policy dialogue, learning, and advocacy.
- **Increase the use of multi-stakeholder forums** to advance learning and advocacy, foster cross-sector collaboration, and develop a long-term reform roadmap for secure and equitable tenure.

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Progress and achievements in the first phase October 2025 – March 2026

By strengthening leadership capacity, testing practical tools, and building multi-stakeholder partnerships, the project has helped build a foundation for more coordinated, inclusive, and effective land management.

Key achievements

- **Customary leadership training programme:** Developed and tested training curricula for chiefs and headpersons, building the foundation for a scalable national programme to strengthen inclusive land governance.
- **Momentum on customary land legal reform:** Catalysed dialogue between government and traditional leaders—including a study tour to Malawi—creating new pathways for advancing customary land legislation and reform.
- **Pilot land administration and planning methodologies:** Designed and tested practical tools for boundary harmonisation, local planning, and e-village registration to improve coordination between customary and state systems.
- **Digitisation of community forest data (400+ groups):** Relaunched and populated a national database covering over 400 Community Forest Management Groups, strengthening visibility and management of forest resources.
- **Women's land rights platform and national engagement:** Elevated women's land rights through national platforms, training, and advocacy, strengthening inclusion in land governance discussions and decision-making.



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Success stories

Chiefs and government finding common ground

In Zambia, relationships between customary leaders and government institutions have often been fragmented. Through a study tour to Malawi, Land Facility brought chiefs and government officials together to see how customary land rights can be formalised in practice. The experience opened space for dialogue that had not previously been possible—building trust, shifting perspectives, and creating momentum for reform. Chiefs are now taking these lessons forward, engaging the House of Chiefs and government counterparts in shaping Zambia's approach to customary land governance.

Making community forest data visible

Across Zambia, information on community forest management has often been fragmented or inaccessible. Land Facility supported the digitisation of records for over 400 Community Forest Management Groups, covering more than 10 million hectares.

By making this data visible and usable, the project is helping government and partners better understand the scale of community forest management—supporting improved planning, coordination, and long-term sustainability.

"The training changed my perspective on GESI integration, which I thought was a hard task. The sharing of practical experiences has helped me appreciate the value of gender and equity issues in improving outcomes."

— **Rita Mulutula**, Senior Chiefs Affairs Officer, Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development

