EVALUATION, RESEARCH AND COMMUNICATION (ERC)

Quarterly Report (May 6, 2013 – June 30, 2013)

JULY 2013 (revised August 5, 2013)

Evaluation, Research and Communication (ERC)

Quarterly Report
(May 6, 2013 – June 30, 2013)

JULY 2013 (revised August 5, 2013)

CONTENTS

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CO	Contracts Officer
COP	Chief of Party
COR	Contracting Officer's Representative
CSO	Civil Society Organization
ERC	Evaluation, Research, and Communication project
IQC	Indefinite Quantity Contract
KMTSS	Knowledge Management and Technical Support Services Project
LTD	Land Tenure and Property Rights Division
LTPR	Land Tenure and Property Rights
MSI	Management Systems International
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
STARR	Strengthening Tenure and Resource Rights
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USIP	United States Institute for Peace
USG	United States Government

1.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The Evaluation, Research and Communication Task Order (ERC) provides a five-year opportunity to create, expand and communicate lessons learned and state-of-the-art evidence for making land tenure and property rights (LTPR) a cross-cutting theme across USAID programs and those of USAID partners and other practitioners. The ERC contract (Task Order # AID-OAA-TO-13-00019), is implemented by Cloudburst Consulting Group, Inc. under the USAID Strengthening Tenure and Resource Rights (STARR) Indefinite Quantity Contract.

The purpose of ERC is to create, expand, and communicate the results of evidence-based knowledge around best land tenure and property rights practices in order to enhance internal USAID and external USG learning, guide program design and implementation, and make the most effective use of limited development resources to accomplish key USG development objectives. ERC supports achievement of USAID's Climate Change and Development Strategy under Strategic Objective 1 Intermediate Result 1.2 that includes "ensuring the rights and engagement of local and indigenous communities" in conjunction with a focus on improving tools and capacity for land-use planning to reduce deforestation. ERC also supports biodiversity conservation through collection and dissemination of evidence-based knowledge on how secure land tenure and property rights can incentivize sustainable land use and protection of valuable ecosystems including the forest, water and wildlife within them. ERC employs a multidisciplinary approach that aligns with USAID Forward principles of learning and evidence-based programming as well as gender equality and female empowerment.

ERC includes five task areas:
- Impact evaluation, including conducting evaluation of LTPR activities and components and supporting enhanced impact evaluation capacity of USAID staff
- Research, focusing on providing rigorous evidence for LTPR theory of change and testing development hypotheses as well as innovative approaches
- Communications of LTPR-related messages, information and knowledge to raise awareness and advance cost-effective LTPR programming in USAID and other implementing organizations
- Training of USAID staff and partners in LTPR principles and programming approaches
- Conducting pilot activities of promising innovative approaches in LTPR

2.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This initial quarterly report is being submitted two months after contract award to put ERC on the standard USG fiscal year quarter schedule. During the quarter the primary activity focus was ERC mobilization and ongoing communications and knowledge management activities.

- Three of five key personnel and supporting staff were hired in the first month of implementation. Two key personnel declined to accept their positions. Cloudburst will submit replacements for USAID approval in the second quarter.
- ERC met with the LTD to conduct initial contract brief and work plan meetings. Cloudburst transitioned to ERC the communications staff and activities under the previous KMTSS communications support project and continue to provide website development and maintenance, communications content generation, and knowledge management services.
- All staff have been provided with office space and computer equipment, and have been oriented to Cloudburst human resources and management systems.
- On the last day of the quarter the draft Annual Work Plan for year one was submitted.

Priority year one activities that are already underway include:

- Subtask 1.A Ethiopia land certification impact evaluation
- Subtask 2.C Impact of REDD+ projects on tenure and property rights
- Subtask 3.A Manage, update, and improve the USAID LTPR website
- Subtask 3.B Ongoing Communication Support
- Subtask 4.B Conduct Washington DC LTPR training
- Subtask 5.A Implement mobile technology in land administration pilot activity

3.0 PROJECT ACTIVITIES

3.1 Task 1 - Impact Evaluation

Subtask 1.A: Evaluation of Land Certification Programs in Ethiopia

The Ethiopia land certification evaluation will be an initial activity for ERC. We have completed a draft work plan for the activity and begun preparing for a scoping TDY to the country late in the second quarter. Specific activities included:

- Establish document library – compiled relevant documents deposited on the ERC Google drive. This work is ongoing
- Initiate data collection – ERC submitted a request through the LTD for M&E and baseline documentation from the implementing partner of two of the USAID funded projects that will evaluated under this subtask
- Assess initial baseline data sets – LTD provided ERC with one set of baseline household data relating to the ELTAP and have begun to read the data into Stata format from SPSS. The basic data set lacks sufficient documentation (e.g., data parameters) required for detailed analysis and to assess the extent to which datasets from different implementation years and sources (i.e. other donor's projects) can be combined and analyzed jointly
- Conferenced several times with LTD and USAID/Ethiopia staff to gather background information on practical matters for conducting evaluation and timing of scoping mission. Mission is currently being planned for September 2013.

Subtask 1.B: USAID/Ethiopia LAND Project Baseline Design and Implementation

- Gender Innovation Lab (GIL) proposal – ERC prepared an Expression of Interest proposal requesting support from the World Bank's GIL to assist with the development of the impact evaluation baseline framework for subtask 1.B

Task 1 Activities Planned During the Next Quarter

- Complete a detailed work plan for subtask 1.A
- Send a scoping team to Ethiopia to initiate secondary data collection
- Discuss with LTD and USAID/Ethiopia plans for subtask 1.B Impact Evaluation Support for the USAID/Ethiopia Land Administration to Nuture Development (LAND) project
- Propose a replacement for the Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist

3.2 Task 2 - Research

ERC initiated the research activity under the leadership of our Gender Specialist who is also a professor at Clark University and accomplished peer-reviewed scientist. During the quarter in addition we prepared the year one research work plan and initiated literature reviews to inform the design of the research subtask 2.A LSLA and 2.C REDD+.

Subtask 2.A: Alternative Land Tenure Arrangements in the Context of LSLA

- Initiated work on a detailed work plan for the research activity
- Compilation of background documents
- Identification of literature begun (# of sources identified – 65)

- Desk review reading begun

Subtask 2.C: Impact of REDD+ projects on tenure and property rights

- Compiled background documents
- Identification of literature begun (# of sources identified - 22)

Task 2 Activities Planned During the Next Quarter

- Complete annotated bibliographies and literature reviews for subtasks 2.A and 2.C.
- Prepare a work plan for the subtask 2.A LSLA research activity
- Prepare a work plan and initiate activities for the subtask 2.C REDD+ research activity.
- After dicussions with LTD, prepare a work plan for subtask 2.D Develop Research Agenda, and initiate activities

3.3 Task 3 - Communications

During the quarter ERC focused on transitioning Cloudburst's work under our KMTSS contract with the LTD to ERC. By the end of June this had been completed: we transferred KMTSS staff to ERC, submitted KMTSS final deliverables, and began work on implementing the recommendations made under KMTSS for improving the Land Tenure Portal. Day to day communications support work flow continued.

Subtask 3.A: Manage, update and refine LTPR website

- On the STARR Partner Portal, reviewed, renamed, uploaded and tagged over 900 documents provided by the PRRG Task Order and taken from the old portal
- Drafted a SOW for updating the Land Governance Program Database and transferring it from the USAID Land Tenure Portal to the Global Donor Platform
- Drafted a SOW for updating the Land Governance Program Map.
- Posted 13 commentaries as of June 30 to LTPR Portal (see Commentaries Posted table below), It should be noted under COR direction we prepared and submitted the Quarterly Report to align reporting with the Fiscal Year.
- Uploaded new and/or updated documents and country profiles to the portal
- Updated the code (css/html/images) behind country profiles
- Transferred and secured the domain name usaidlandtenure.net in preparation for changeover of the domain name servers
- Updated two spotlights on the portal: the country profile spotlight was updated to Laos and the issue spotlight was updated to Food Security

Subtask 3.B: Develop LTPR Products for Public Consumption

- Conducted research, interviews and drafted a FrontLines article on strengthening land rights in Afghanistan through the formalization of slums
- Provided daily media tracking and analysis of important LTPR issues. Media scans were emailed to the Division daily
- Provided additional G8-specific daily media scans, which were forwarded to the White House, in the run-up to the June G8 summit
- Revised the Land Governance Program Database Taxonomy
- Worked with specific LTD team members to write and revise draft commentaries

- In anticipation of a formal strategic communications plan, developed a draft editorial calendar to schedule and plan for upcoming communications to align with USAID's editorial themes
- Composed and posted over 50 tweets for LTD staff to promote portal commentaries and research (as of June 30, 2013)
- Revised a draft USAID Impact Blog on USAID land tenure accomplishments in Ethiopia
- Reviewed and polished talking points for LTD presentations at the 2013 Policies Against Hunger Conference in Berlin
- Drafted a PowerPoint presentation on the Division's key messages for the Department of State's Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor Division
- Began revision of the LTD strategic communications plan; held initial strategic communications planning meetings with LTD; provided a list of strategic communications brainstorming questions and activities for the Division's July retreat
- Provided direction on guest commentary for the LTPR Portal by STARR partner Landesa, in preparation for more frequent guest commentaries by STARR partners once the strategic communications plan is developed

COMMENTARIES POSTED

June1 – June 30 2013 (Commentaries in May were performed under KMTSS)

Date	Commentary Title
3-Jun	Forest Inhabitants Should Have Ownership Rights to Encourage Conservation
4-Jun	Stronger Property Rights for Indigenous Populations Can Improve Livelihoods and Reduce Conflict
5-Jun	Strengthening Rural Landholders' Rights in Benin Improves Food Security
6-Jun	USAID Deputy Assistant Administrator Elisabeth Kvitashvili Marks the One-Year Anniversary of the Voluntary Guidelines
7-Jun	REDD+ Implementation Requires Legal Reform & Forest Community Rights
9-Jun	Dealing with Large-Scale Land Acquisitions: Lessons for Burma
17-Jun	Kimberley Process Marks 10-Year Anniversary, USAID Furthers Development Agenda
18-Jun	U.S. Announces Land Governance Partnership with Burkina Faso
19-Jun	G8 Takes Steps to Improve Land Governance, Enhance Transparency
19-Jun	Community-Led Forest Management Can Reduce Deforestation and Forest Degradation
20-Jun	U.S. to Partner with Guinea in Effort to Support Kimberley Process and the Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative
25-Jun	REDD+ Requires Tenure to be Addressed at National Level
26-Jun	In Burma, a Successful Peace Process Must Address Land Rights for Internally Displaced Persons

Task 3 Activities Planned During the Next Quarter

- Continue ongoing website upgrades and maintenance
- Propose a replacement candidate for the Public Communications Specialist key personnel position
- Continue ongoing communications products preparation and support to the LTD
- Full engagement in the Strategic Communications Planning process
- Complete changeover of the domain name servers

3.4 Task 4 -Training

Training is another early activity for ERC. During the quarter the LTD set a date for the fall 2013 USG LTPR training course. We have met with the COR and USAID Activtiy manager to discuss the design the course. This involves a syllabus and training session content review and update. Also ERC will initiate support for the USIP training to be held in the third quarter of ERC year one.

Subtask 4.A: Develop LTPR training materials and modules

ERC reviewed previous course materials for the Washington DC Property Rights and Resource Governance Issues and Best Practices Course to be held in the fall of 2013 and concluded that course materials might need updating to better align with the LTD communications strategy and to a lesser degree with the USAID Office of Human Resources current Workforce Competencies.

Subtask 4.B: Conduct one Washington, DC and one regional LTPR training per year

ERC and LTD defined the Washington DC course objective and purpose: to create awareness among USAID mission staff about the crosscutting nature of LTPR specifically related to the six issues identified in the communications strategy. The training program will also include a module which provides mission staff with access to LTD resources to assist trainees in developing LTPR programs in their portfolios..

Subtask 4.E: Develop and conduct LTPR course for USG partners and NGOs

ERC sent a representative to the USIP Land, Property and Conflict course in June 2013 to observe the current course to prepare for LTD assistance with future USIP trainings. LTD has asked ERC to be prepared to provide support of the future course.

Task 4 Activities Planned During the Next Quarter

- Develop a training course evaluation process
- Complete design of the fall LTPR training course and coordinate with presenters to prepare course materials
- Under LTD direction, as needed, meet with USIP course organizers in preparation for ERC support to the fall 2013 course.
- Revising the DC course agenda, identify trainers for each session
- Working with trainers develop training session materials
- Under LTD direction engage with course participants in preparation for the course

3.5 Task 5 -Implementation of Pilot Activities

Under LTD direction ERC will initiate its first pilot activity for testing approaches to and demonstrating the feasibility of use of mobile technology, crowdsourcing to support land administration.

Subtask 5.A Pilot project: using mobile technologies and crowdsourcing to inform land administration systems

- ESRI applications demonstration – ERC met with a representative from ESRI on two occasions (one meeting in person and one virtual) for an overview of key ESRI GIS applications with potential applications for the mobile pilot. The key products discussed: i) ArcGIS online, ii) ESRI mobile application, iii) ESRI data collector mobile application
- ERC bgan exploring opportunities for leveraging USAID's ArcGIS Online enterprise licensing agreement with the current work and applicability to mobile pilot as well as other ERC tasks

- ERC reviewed Robin McLaren's proposal for collecting land administration data using 'crowdsourced' information and mobile technologies
- ERC conducted discussions with Robin McLaren, a mobile technology and land administration thought leader. These covered limitations with current mobile software and some alternatives to addressing these, progress on the Open Cadastre initiative, criteria for an area where a mobile pilot might take place, and some prospective countries

Task 5 Activities Planned During the Next Quarter

- ERC will submit a detailed pilot work plan for the pilot project and with approval of USAID initiate selection of pilot sites, background research, and other activities.