The Chipata District Land Alliance (CDLA) is a civil society organization that focuses on advancing social and economic development by documenting the land rights of citizens in the Eastern Province of Zambia. Since 2014, with support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), CDLA has partnered with six customary chiefs to pioneer low-cost, participatory methods of land documentation using mobile approaches to secure tenure, known as MAST. The organization uses data to improve dialogue and promote transparency and accountability in land use planning.

MAIN ACTIVITIES
- Customary land documentation
- Local area planning
- Advocacy for sustainable land use
- Links to agrofinancing
- Land administration
- Conflict resolution
- Women’s empowerment

THE REACH OF CDLA

OUR VISION
WE ARE WORKING TOWARDS A SOCIETY WHERE EVERYONE, ESPECIALLY WOMEN AND YOUTH, CAN ENJOY AND HAVE ACCESS TO THE OWNERSHIP OF LAND.

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS
Parcels documented 12,600+
Hectares mapped 32,000+
Women with registered rights 21,000+
Villages supported 700+

Since 2014, CDLA has registered land rights for more than 40,000 people.
“Land is the bottleneck and the barrier that we could never get past. Everyone wants more, so they take advantage of the widows and make claims. Prior to CDLA’s arrival, each week, dozens of households lined up seeking resolution to conflicts over field boundaries. Now there is peace in the chiefdom.”
Chieftainess Mkanda, Chipata District, Zambia.

“With USAID support, the CDLA has become a trusted intermediary between communities and district government. Our maps are helping the chiefs and government agree on district development priorities for specific locations and ensure that the rights of existing landholders are considered.”
Adam Ngoma, CDLA Coordinator

With USAID support, CDLA has brought together chiefs and district government to resolve long-standing tensions over boundaries using participatory mapping approaches.

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