



OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL U.S. Agency for International Development

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 18, 2023

TO: USAID/Mexico, Mission Director, Jene Thomas

FROM: Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) Regional Office, through Global and Strategic Audits Division (GSAD) Assistant Director, Pamela Hamilton /s/

SUBJECT: Financial Audit of the Sustainable Management of Community Lands II Program in Mexico, Managed by Consejo Civil Mexicano para la Silvicultura Sostenible, A. C., Cooperative Agreement 72052318CA00003, January 1 to December 31, 2022 (9-523-23-024-R)

This memorandum transmits the final audit report on the Sustainable Management of Community Lands II program. Consejo Civil Mexicano para la Silvicultura Sostenible, A. C. (CCMSS) contracted with the independent audit firm Despacho Luis Gonzaga Pastor, S. C. – Kreston FLS to conduct the audit. The audit firm stated that it performed its audit in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards. The audit firm is responsible for the enclosed report and the conclusions expressed in it. We do not express an opinion on CCMSS's schedule of expenditures of USAID awards; the effectiveness of its internal control; or its compliance with the award, laws, and regulations.¹

The audit objectives were to (1) express an opinion on whether the schedule of expenditures of USAID awards for the period audited, was presented fairly, in all material respects; (2) evaluate the CCMSS's internal controls; (3) determine whether CCMSS complied with award terms and applicable laws and regulations; and (4) determine if CCMSS has taken adequate corrective action on prior audit recommendations. To answer the audit objectives, the audit firm reported that they assessed and tested the internal controls related to the project; assessed and tested compliance with applicable laws, regulations, the agreement's provisions; and reviewed project expenditures. The audit covered \$1,199,347 of USAID expenditures for the audited period.

The audit firm concluded the schedule of expenditures of USAID awards presented fairly, in all material respects, program revenues and costs incurred under the award for the period audited.

¹ We reviewed the audit firm's report for conformity with professional reporting standards. Our desk reviews are typically performed to identify any items needing clarification or issues requiring management attention. Desk reviews are limited to review of the audit report itself and excludes review of the auditor's supporting working papers; they are not designed to enable us to directly evaluate the quality of the audit performed.

The audit firm did not identify any material weaknesses in internal control or instances of noncompliance with applicable laws, regulations, and agreement terms. The audit firm issued a management letter which included a minor internal control deficiency.

Additionally, the audit firm stated that the recipient has not taken adequate corrective action to address all the prior audit report recommendations.

Based on the results of the desk review, OIG is not making any recommendation to USAID/Mexico.

OIG does not routinely distribute independent public accounting reports beyond the immediate addressees because a high percentage of these reports contain information restricted from release under the Trade Secrets Act, 18 U.S.C. 1905 and Freedom of Information Act Exemption Four, 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(4) ("commercial or financial information obtained from a person that is privileged or confidential"). In addition, USAID OIG has determined that this transmittal memo and the enclosed report are not subject to notification and reporting requirements under Section 5274 of the National Defense Authorization Act.²

² The James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 Pub. L. No. 117-263, § 5274. Please direct related inquiries to oignotice_ndaa5274@usaid.gov.