Experiences in the Application of Participatory Land Information Tools for Improving Tenure Security in Developing Countries (UN-HABITAT GLTN)

John Gitau, Hellen Ndungu, Danilo Antonio and Oumar Sylla (Kenya)

Key words: Access to land; Cadastre; Digital cadastre; Informal settlements; Land management; Low cost technology; Security of tenure; land information; sustainable development; continuum of land rights

SUMMARY

Tenure security is a pre-requisite for sustainable development, poverty eradication and fulfillment of human rights. Access to land, security of tenure and land management all have significant implications for livelihood and sustainable development; in addition, land tenure security is central to agricultural production and sustainable use of natural resources.

However, the reality is that the current global approach to land systems cannot meet the needs of the majority of people in developing countries with regard to security of tenure – there is limited coverage in formal land registration systems in developing countries; complexity of land rights and claims including customary, statutory and informal; systemic inequalities such women's limited access and control over land including youth issues not being addressed; urbanization where the urban population will account for more than two-thirds of the world's population with 90% of the increase taking place in Africa and Asia; food security and pressures on agricultural land with the need to increase food production by 2050; and, large scale land investments with 78% focusing on agriculture with majority on non-food crops. Conventional land administration systems cannot supply data/information necessary for sustainable development. There is need for innovative solutions that are affordable, participatory, scalable and sustainable to promote responsible land governance.

This paper highlights how participatory data collection approaches have been applied in different contexts including informal settlement, customary, post-disaster and post-conflict contexts with a focus on good land governance through the recognition of different forms of legal, perceived and actual tenure rights across the continuum. This process includes the adoption of flexible user-driven ICT approaches built upon open source software technologies and transparent land information with easy access for other stakeholders including the public. The paper also highlights the importance of

Experiences in the Application of Participatory Land Information Tools for Improving Tenure Security in Developing Countries (UN-HABITAT GLTN) (10042)
John Gitau, Hellen Ndungu, Danilo Antonio and Oumar Sylla (Kenya)

FIG Working Week 2019
Geospatial information for a smarter life and environmental resilience
Hanoi, Vietnam, April 22–26, 2019

capacity building as a key component in ensuring successful deployment of innovative and participatory land recordation systems. The need to develop local competencies is given prominence as the key to developing sustainable land information. The implementation and outcome of these initiatives in different countries has provided key lessons for consideration in future projects particularly in addressing the requirements of key land stakeholders including at national government agencies. These include technical capabilities of the land information system that are low-cost, related tools and methodologies, capacity development at societal, organizational and individual levels; multi-stakeholder collaboration, and, knowledge sharing and management.