

Assessment of Transparency and Open Data in Land Administration in Ecuador

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Key words: Cadastre; e-Governance; Geoinformation/GI; Land management; Standards; transparency, geoportal, open data, cadastre

SUMMARY

Modern land administration systems are facing challenges such as growing urbanization, demand for natural resources, increased natural disasters, unsustainable land use, and land conflicts, among others; even the last COVID-19 pandemic created disruptions in the normal functioning of land administration systems. To overcome these threats, modern land systems must adopt models focused on intelligence, interoperability, inclusivity, interactivity, incorporation, and investment; these new models enhance transparency, accountability, reliability, and ease of use. Good land governance and adopting information and communication technologies are the engines to embrace change. The current research focused on the use of geoportals on modern land administration systems in Ecuador; geoportals are part of the outgoing change that aims to use new technologies and open data, giving more transparency and new services to the final users. Ecuador has no single land administration system; each municipality manages the cadaster and land registry, land use, land valuation, etc. The national government gives directrices through different policies and norms, but the local governments are mostly autonomous. It means local land administration systems can adopt new technologies based on their priorities and available economic resources. For the study, research was done on the online services offered by the 24 provincial capitals of Ecuador, specifically to know if they have active geoportals and what type of information is shared. The main themes or characteristics that were used to assess the active geoportals were (T1) cadastral information, (T2) thematic information, and (T3) collaborative interface; each theme has its sub-themes and given values for the different possible scenarios. This characterization gives a clear overview of the technological transformation in land administration systems in Ecuador and its diversity. It shows the tendency to adopt new technologies, create new services, and the variety in information shared but also the need for standards and regulations for land information infrastructures and open data.