



REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

**COUNTRY REPORT FOR THE TECHNICAL
COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONAL CENTRE FOR
MAPPING OF RESOURCES
FOR DEVELOPMENT, ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA**

by

Tshiamiso. S. Oitsile

Ministry of Lands and Housing

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Chairperson of the Technical Committee
Representatives of the Economic Commission for Africa
Director General and staff of the Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development
Members of the Technical Committee
Ladies and Gentlemen

I. INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

1. Allow me to take this opportunity to show my deepest gratitude to the host Country, the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, for a warm welcome and hospitality that they have so far accorded us since our arrival. Thank you the regional centre and your staff for the excellent arrangement for this meeting including travel and VISA facilitation.
2. All though the economic down turn is still being experienced, progress on various initiatives as reported since the Technical committee meeting has been realized. The Ministry is continuously gathering Geo-information to facilitate orderly and socio-economic development in line with our mission of “Provision of land and housing delivery for socio-economic development”.
3. A number of policies, projects as well as the review of land administration/Management related legislation has been done with a view to maximize Land and housing deliveries.
4. All major processes have been mapped and re-engineered to minimize delays and maximize performance.

5. We are continuously mapping the country at various scales to fulfil the demand of topographic maps (Orthophoto, Land Cover/use, line, thematic, etc) as well as acquisition of aerial photography and satellite imagery.

6. Mr. Chairman, the Land Administration Procedures, Capacity Building and Systems (LAPCAS) project is progressively implementing land registration exercise, and number of information systems projects have been initiated, this includes Cadastral information system, Land information system, computerization of deeds and record information system, all this will culminated into the envisaged land information Centre which is currently at SOUR(statement of user requirements)

II. LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT

7. The consolidation of all land related acts into one is an ongoing exercise, this is meant to minimize conflicts in interpretation and contradicting clauses among various acts and regulations.
8. Town and Country Planning Act enacted last year is being implementation to facilitate decentralization of planning functions to the local authorities, as well as taking away the planning appeals, which have hitherto been performed by the Minister, to the Land Tribunals.
9. The Land Tribunal Bill, with the main objective of empowering the current tribunals to also deal with physical planning appeals has been

approved by Parliament, it is being implemented through restructuring and creation of additional tribunal offices.

10. Botswana has also developed a Land Policy, with the main objectives of addressing issues of equitable land distribution, gender, economic development and access to land especially to previously disadvantaged groups, this was considered by the last parliament and returned for amendments and further consultations.
11. The Ministry is also formulating a Public Private Partnership (PPP) strategy in Land servicing to facilitate involvement of the private sector in land servicing.
12. A number of strategies have been formulated to address the current and future challenges, these includes
 - a) Settlement Strategies,
 - b) Growth Point Strategy,
 - c) The review of the National Settlement Policy,
 - d) Declaration of Planning Areas,
 - e) Urban Regeneration Initiatives:.

III. MAJOR TECHNICAL ISSUES

13. The LAPCAS project, as report in the last meeting is progressively being implemented and to this end over 200 000 of the projected 950 000 properties have been surveyed of which 75000 have been

adjudicated/audited. We are targeting that 85% of the Country to be completed by 2016.

14. The tender for upgrading of Cadastral information system has been awarded and the system is projected to be up and running towards the end of 2015.
15. Major land servicing and surveying projects are being carried out across the country to support the ministry's objective of registering all land parcel in the country.
16. Tenders for land cover mapping for central district is ongoing, the delivery of this project will complete the coverage for the country. Tenders for aerial photography of 100 settlements, together with tender for acquisition of satellite imagery and line mapping are ongoing.

IV. INFRASTRUCTURE

17. The Government is progressively implementing the E-gov strategy, of which the Ministry is driving the GIS cluster and the land information Centre initiatives. Some components of which is already operational.
18. Land Information Centre as stated earlier, is being implemented through development of major components i.e is Collection of various data sets (mainly plot ownership data is done through the National Land Registration project and Deeds registry computerization). The

development of the Land Information System is also progressing well and currently at SOUR(Statement of User Requirements) stage.

19. Further to these initiatives the Ministry have signed a an Enterprise License Agreement(ELA) with ESRI south Africa on behalf of the Government to facilitate information sharing/integration as well as solving data compatibility issues

V. EDUCATION AND TRAINING

20. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Centre for their annual sponsorship on various courses in the Geoinformation area. To this end, the Centre this year has trained our staff members on GIS software, GPS applications, Land cover mapping for greenhouse gases.
21. The Ministry is continuously sending staff for Diploma/Degree courses at the University of Botswana and the region for training on Geomatics, GIS and Land management related disciplines.

VI. COOPERATION WITH RCMRD

22. The partnership with the Centre in Establishment of Continuous Operating Reference Stations (CORS) as part of the National Reference Frame project under National Development Plan number 10(NDP10) is progressing well, and to date 34/68 stations have been

constructed and setup, this system is being piloted on various projects. The centre's assistance with procurement of the requisite equipment, software, training and installation in this regard is highly appreciated. We commit ourselves to realising this project through this joint venture.

23. Once again we are happy to note that the Centre has serviced survey equipment for both central government and our Land authorities at a total service cost of US\$12,500-00 and replacement value of US\$556,500-00.

24. The Ministry together with the University of Botswana and the Regional Centre is carrying out a Land Cover Mapping project for Green houses inventory development.

VII. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

25. Activities on the re-affirmation of our international boundaries with our neighbours in line with the African Union programme is being progressively executed. To this end our border with Namibia has been re-affirmed and the survey approved by the Surveyors General after the assistance by the Centre in validating the results. The two states are jointly in the process of seeking an expert from the AUBP to assist in drafting of the boundary treaty.

26. With regard to the Botswana/Zimbabwe boundary, joint re-affirmation of the boundary is ongoing.
27. The inspection exercise for the Botswana/South boundary was jointly done in June 2014 with some recommendations on the way forward. The report is to be table before a Bi-national commission scheduled for the November 2014 in Botswana
28. The Botswana/ Zambia boundary re-affirmation is still at consultation.
29. The Ministry is participating on joint permanent commission on defense and security, where Surveyors General consult on border and other issues with particular reference to Geo-information

VIII. CHALLENGES

30. Critical shortage of skilled manpower especially in geomatics field with particular reference to professional Land Surveyors is still a major concern. This situation is worsened by the high staff turnover hence reliance on personnel from outside the country.
31. Although the country is slow recovering from the economic downturn, funding for projects to expedite delivery of Geo-information to facilitate land and housing is still inadequate.

32. The ongoing LAPCAS, is facing the biggest challenge of surveying all plots in the country, which have previously not been surveyed. The ministry's intention is come up with an integrated/Unified land information system in the country, by consolidating all land information systems currently in place. Inadequate funding and inadequate skilled personnel once again remain a major constraint to our planned projects and activities.

IX. CONCLUSION AND WAY FORWARD

33. Going forward Mr. Chairman, we intend to expedite the implementation of the LAPCAS initiatives and also initiate or progress the following:

- i) Register all parcels in the country despite resources challenges
- ii) Develop a comprehensive and integrated land information system.
- iii) Establish the Land Information Centre
- iv) Continue with mapping of the country at various scales to provide geoinformation to facilitate planning and sustainable economic development
- v) Formulate and review strategies for national/regional planning and land management initiatives.
- vi) Finalize the review of land related acts and policies

- vii) Make full use of available technology and assistance from the Centre to make meaningful contribution to the development process of my country.
34. Lastly, Botswana commits itself to the ideals of the RCMRD. We shall do our part to ensure attainment of the ideals of the Centre through partnership and resource sharing. It is through such commitment, and the consolidation of efforts with vigor and determination that we can put this Centre on a reputable world position.
35. Thank you Mr. Chairman.