

Annual World Bank Conference on Land and Poverty
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Session 11-09 Consultation on UN-GGIM Expert Group on Land
Administration and Management

Chair: Dr. Vanessa Lawrence, World Bank

No. Participants: approx. 40

Keynote presentation

Kees de Zeeuw

Title: UN GGIM launches a group of Experts on Land Administration and Management

- In order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and to have legal certainty for all citizens in the world, good geospatial information management and sound land administration are considered important prerequisites. It is believed that the momentum is right for the challenging but feasible ambition to have land rights for the world.
- During the fifth Expert Meeting of UN-GGIM in 2015, the Committee of Experts endorsed the establishment of an Expert Group on Land Administration and Management (UN-EG-LAM). This Expert Group fits within the global setting, global agenda and global initiatives, and can play an important role in facilitating the needed leadership. UN-GGIM can do this by coordinating the cooperation between the United Nations Member States, and to link to other global initiatives and organisations, including academia, NGO's and the private sector.
- The objective UN-EG-LAM is to play a leading role at the policy level by raising awareness and to encourage the use of geospatial information management for land administration purposes.

Panel contributions

Land Administration and Management: Developing Country Experiences under the umbrella of UN-GGIM

Mahashe Chaka

Title: Developing Countries Fit for Purpose Spatial Data Infrastructure

It is worth mentioning the known fact that land is a finite resource. The Land Management and Administration is therefore a "must have" by all. The external boundaries that demarcate the world into respective countries and later internal boundaries that yield Provinces, Districts, Counties, Wards etc. all require some Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI). Since Countries differ in terms of needs and resources prioritisation- The FIG-Fit for Purpose helps deal with Country specific land management and administration needs.

All countries including Developing Countries have Spatial Data. Some countries have the Spatial Data collected by different Government Ministries in the same country using different SDI. This makes analysis of available data that very challenging.

The recommendation is therefore that Developing Countries should have a Standard Spatial Data Infrastructure (SSDI) - which will enable tools such as LGAF to be used to assess the level of Land Management and Administration that each Developing Country has. The SSDI recommended is ARC-GIS by ESRI – this initiative can then be communicated to Land Policy in Africa: A framework to strengthen Land Rights Enhance Productivity and secure livelihood's and then passed to the African Union summit attended by Heads of Governments in Addis.

Oumar Sylla

Title: Fit-For-Purpose Land Administration - Towards Country-Level Implementation

In most developing countries, and for 70 per cent of the world's population, people are excluded from participating in formal land administration systems and cannot register and safeguard their land rights. The majority of these people are the poor, women and the most vulnerable in society. Most of the existing investments in land administration have been piecemeal and have not delivered the required changes and improvements at scale. New solutions are required that can deliver security of tenure at scale, are affordable and can be quickly developed and incrementally improved over time and the focus should be on a "fit-for-purpose" approach. There is an urgent need for a Fit-For-Purpose Land Administration.

Building from the Joint 2014 FIG and World Bank publication on Fit-For-Purpose (FFP) Land Administration and in partnership with Kadaster and other partners and key land experts, GLTN further develops the concepts of FFP approach to land administration, further strengthens the principles in developing a country specific FFP strategy for land administration, provides key recommendations for building the spatial, legal and institutional frameworks and offers some guidance in implementing the FFP approach. The implementation at country level can be complemented with other pro-poor and gender sensitive land tools and approaches that GLTN partners developed like participatory enumerations, Social Tenure Domain Model, pro-poor land recordation, PILaR, gender evaluation criteria and other tools within the framework of the continuum of land rights approach.

While the paradigm shift towards a fit-for-approach land administration is increasingly emerging, the challenge is huge. The challenge around climate change, land conflicts and food and energy insecurity further exacerbates the current situation. What we need is to strengthen partnership, develop capacity and build awareness particularly towards country level implementation. At global level, there is also a need to strengthen collaboration amongst UN agencies, member states, private sector and other land stakeholders, thus the need to highlight the need for an Expert Group on Land Administration. With strategic partnerships and capacity development, successful implementation of the Fit-For-Purpose Land Administration is guaranteed.

Peter Sullivan

Title: Geo-solutions to support rapidly developing land administration regimes on Canada Lands

The Surveyor General Branch of Natural Resources Canada (SGB) is tasked with delivering a cadastral survey system to support land tenure on two types of land:

- Lands that vest in the Federal Crown (Canada Lands), consisting of 3,000 First Nations Reserves, National Parks, the offshore and federal lands in the north.
- Fee simple lands administered by land titles systems in the 3 northern territories.

Canada's Indigenous peoples are assuming control over their lands through a variety of self-government initiatives, ranging from community land management to land claim agreements to fee simple-like title to municipal-like authority to Aboriginal title. The SGB is tasked with ensuring that an efficient cadastral system supports the aspirations of Canada's First Nations communities, while working closely with Aboriginal organizations and other government departments. Cadastral systems are being modernized, drawing ideas from domestic and international sources (e.g. the principles laid out in FIG's "Fit for Purpose" concept, the NAMATI findings and the lessons from property formalization) to produce a "made in Canada" variant. A key challenge for lands modernization is to ensure that tenure and cadastral systems are as effective as those operating within neighbouring provincial and territorial regimes, while recognizing community needs and aspirations. This means that, should a community decide to do so, it can migrate to the provincial or territorial systems with minimal cost. I am keen to share experiences from recent projects and research (i.e. training, standards, parcel fabric renewal) that support Canada's indigenous people's land management options; and to learn from the experiences (both exemplars and cautionary tales) from others.

Hussein Farah

Title: Use of low cost geospatial technology and flexible land administration systems

Africa has challenges in food security, high poverty levels and low social and economic development. However Africa has high potential to expand and intensify agricultural productivity and benefit from natural resources that hence provide solution to these challenges. Majority of people live in rural areas and practice subsistence farming on community land held under customary land rights.

Agricultural productivity and sustainable management of natural resources can be improved if clear and secure land tenure systems and efficient land administration frameworks are established. To quickly and economically bring formal land records and secure land rights in the customary held rural land, use of geospatial technologies and establishment of simple and flexible land administration frameworks that serve the particular needs of the people are required.

Examples in Africa of the use of low cost geospatial technologies and simple land administration frameworks that speed up the inclusion of more people in formal land administration systems will be presented. Challenges such as lack of capacities and institutional and legal frameworks will be discussed.

Lesley Arnold

Title: Travelling the 'Fit for Purpose' Route: What should be done now to avoid the pitfalls associated with future spatial upgrading?

Developed nations are moving towards spatially accurate digital cadastral boundaries, three and four dimensional representations and the ability to identify all rights, restrictions and responsibilities on land.

This can be daunting for developing countries looking to developed nations for best practice cadastral data management case studies to learn from past mistakes, pre-empt future uses and benefits, and leapfrog to 'state-of-the-art' systems.

Yet, developed nations started with a 'fit-for-purpose' cadastre and there were important reasons for doing so. Getting the spatial framework in place was essential for tenure security and a major trigger for economic growth. Importantly, the approach suited societal needs and economic circumstances of the time.

It is only today, that the aspiration for spatially accurate digital cadastres is gaining momentum – driven by modern business needs and consumer demands for ubiquitous information.

Given this outlook, should developing countries be concerned about going down the 'fit-for-purpose' route in the first instance? What measures can be taken now to avoid common pitfalls associated with spatially upgrading boundaries at a later date?