

The Role of Communities in Land Cadastre Maintenance

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SUMMARY

This paper emphasizes that for a land cadastre system to be effective and sustainable, the issues of updating and maintaining it with trustable and up-to-date spatial and legal/legitimate land information is critical, and it requires a more participative role of communities.

The authors suggest that communities must be empowered to not only register their land, both community delimitations and individual parcels, but also to keep their cadastre up-to-date with the means of appropriate tools and procedures that must be made available preferably at the community level, to ignite the required updates when they occur. These procedures and tools should be designed to accommodate the needs of land rights holders, not a government bureaucracy, as opposed to current practices that have led to outdated records of many land cadastres.

For rural areas, the authors recommend the decentralization of these cadastral functions based on what the authors denominate as a community-based crowdsourcing but not the decentralization of cadastre databases promoting a multitude of cadastres as this would only contribute to increased complexity and costs, and a higher difficulty of a national integrated cadastre. In urban areas however, due to specific legal frameworks, there is a need for a dedicated municipality cadastre provided there are mechanisms of interoperability and synchronization of data for the national cadastre.

The paper will discuss in detail the procedures and tools proposed for this approach, having in mind the reality of Mozambique and its Land Information Cadastre System, the SiGIT system and the tools for community land recordation (SiGIT mobile) and specific processes for massive land tenure registration in a fit-for-purpose approach. What is being now further detailed are the procedures and tools to promote a trustable and up-to-date land cadastre based on a more participatory community

effort. This will result either in changes to the current methodology for land tenure regularization, or a specific methodology for cadastre operations after initial regularization is performed. The tools to be developed must consider different scenarios based on the specific conditions of the rural population, promoting the utilization of both digital means as well as paper based where appropriate. The study will focus on a cluster of communities in a specific locality where the recordation is already being done by the communities.

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