

# **The Social Tenure Domain Model Framework: Lessons and Opportunities from a Decade of Experiences in the Country Applications**

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## **SUMMARY**

The Social Tenure Domain Model (STDm) is an innovative concept developed into a model and a tool to address the challenges in land tenure recordation, particularly in developing countries. The concept re-engineers land tenure system requirements in a pro-poor manner and supports the integration of multiple datasets and spatial units in representing the people-to-land relationships. The concept is transformed into a model and a tool to support countries with very little cadastral coverage in urban and rural contexts, post-conflict, informal settlement and customary tenure settings. It has been a decade of development, customization and practical application of STDm in different countries and contexts with different partners. This experience has resulted in numerous iterations of the use cases, language requirements, and appropriate localization in about ten (10) countries. It is high time to reflect and encapsulate the experience and lessons learned on the tool.

The tool underpins the conceptual approach of the continuum of land rights approach and the Fit-For-Purpose Land Administration (FFP LA) principles towards securing land and property rights for all, particularly for the poor, women and the vulnerable. It is seen as a vehicle to raise awareness on land tenure security, organize poor communities towards addressing their land and settlement issues and as an instrument for better land tenure security and better livelihoods. A strong cohort of users is established globally in the land sector supported by GLTN partners and country partners. Similarly, a robust change is witnessed in the transformation of the legal framework and institutional practices, particularly in Uganda, Nepal, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Namibia, as influenced by the use and application of the STDm tool. In addition, the STDm-based Land Information System (LIS) established and operationalized has elicited huge interest from land departments in formal land administration contexts. The tool is gaining traction in the formal context where no other alternatives

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exist.

This paper will capture the experience and lessons learned in the development and implementation of STDM as a concept, model and tool. It builds from the experiences in different countries and how the core model develops and adjusts to emerging demands, needs, challenges and technologies. It will also reflect on the next steps, the next development priorities, and how the tool development and implementation process could be better managed institutionally.

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