

Securing Land Rights for the World

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SUMMARY

Estimations show that about 70% of the people-land relationships are not documented. This, while population grows and the pressure on land and natural resources increases. Often, the poor suffer most. This results in many land conflicts and competing claims on land. Appropriate administration of land is the start for conflict resolution and sustainable land use planning anywhere in the world. But, as money and time are limited, we need to act clever. Leadership UN GGIM starts formulating global needs, UN FAO has developed Voluntary Guidelines. The World Bank started monitoring good practices in the land sector with a land Governance Assessment Framework (LGAF). Together with FIG, they also promote Fit for Purpose Land Administration approaches. But is this enough to convince our world leaders to finance, organise and prioritise the issue of land rights? And are citizens sufficiently aware? The ambition Securing land rights for the world is a challenging but feasible objective, we think. Being active in projects all over the world and participating in global discussions on this issue leads us to this belief. Methods and land tools do exist and develop rapidly, supported by excellent private companies, modern technology and new information and communication possibilities. What is already there? Satellite imagery and new sensor techniques allow for fast basic inventory of general boundaries, using feature extracting technologies. This is where we need the private sector. The possibility of crowd sourced data, open source software and national open data policies are an opportunity, not a threat. Land administration is a process of continuous upgrading to higher levels of detail, quality and usability. We estimate that with 50 – 100 billion US dollar and 10 - 15 years time secured land rights for the world is attainable, based on evidence from the field. What do we still need? If well maintained, land administration will be an essential part of national spatial data infrastructures. Awareness, leadership and financing are crucial. Coordination and organisation ask for a professional approach. In this special edition of *Abroad* we want to show you what is already there and what could be done. We challenge you to share our ambition and become active in making it happen.