

World Bank Land and Poverty Conference: Responsible Land Governance – Towards an Evidence-based Approach



The World Bank held the 18th Annual World Bank Conference on Land and Poverty from 20-24 March 2017 at its global headquarters in Washington DC, USA. The conference was attended by more than 1,250 participants from over 130 countries, including FIG President Chryssy Potsiou and Vice President Diane Dumashie. The majority of the participants were from developing countries, representing World Bank client governments, academia, NGOs and CSOs, the private sector and World Bank development partners.

Underpinned by recognising responsible land governance, the conference theme reflected the fact that large parts of some country populations may lack clear rights, documents may be out of date, and there are persistent failings in managing land to maximise social and economic benefits. Accordingly, the discussions and presentations considered how to close the gap between reality and legal provisions of land rights and management for urban and rural development. Three broad factors that could close this gap were

identified, discussed and recorded in the conference forum and papers. These factors included: a) New data sources, including drones, and more comprehensive and regular coverage of land records with imagery that is often free or made available under new business models, b) better connectivity, and c) improvements in the ability to process data. FIG is a key partner of the Global Land Tool Network (GLTN) which played a very visible role during the week. FIG is involved in the development of operational standards for land administration, and a pre-conference event was dedicated to this subject.

The conference concluded with a clear message that building on the demonstrable capacity of the World Bank in analytics, together with its partners in all regions, can evidence and ultimately implement solutions. Notably, the ultimate partners are the politicians.

Dr Diane Dumashie, FIG vice president

More information

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Marine/Coastal SDI Best Practices and GSDI



Rapid changes in marine and coastal areas require implementation of processes and tools to enhance knowledge and management of these territories. Marine and Coastal Spatial Data Infrastructures (M/C SDIs) facilitate sharing and use of spatial data across a broad range of stakeholders by promoting data and metadata harmonisation and services interoperability. Efforts at national and international level are underway to increase efficiency in spatial data production and improve availability and accessibility to support the concepts of

Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM), Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) and establishing effective Marine Cadastres.

In November 2015, GSDI launched the Marine/Coastal SDI Best Practice Project as one of its strategic projects through October 2017. The project was strengthened with additional funding from EuroSDR through 2018, with a strong focus on the 'land-sea interaction' aspect of marine/coastal data. The project is now embedded within the new GSDI Capacity Building Program 2017-2018,

approved by the board in December 2016.

Two marine/coastal best practice webinars were held in November 2016 and March 2017. The third is scheduled for June 2017, focusing on the land-sea interface, and the fourth for September 2017, focusing on marine cadastre.

The Marine/Coastal SDI Best Practice Project focuses on:

- frameworks for marine and coastal geographic data, services and infrastructures