

# Determining Cadastral System Conformity to the VGGTs

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## SUMMARY

There are specific guidelines within the Food and Agriculture Organisation's (FAO) Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGTs) that suggest the optimal structure of a cadastral system that would provide for equity, security of tenure, and social well-being. Part 5 of the VGGTs under Administration of Tenure indicates that states should provide systems, and that these systems should be appropriate, inclusive for all, simple, available, public, and transparent. The Land Governance Assessment Framework (LGAF) also provides more specific evaluation criteria for the assessment of structures within the land administration that are required to support good governance. In 2014 and 2015 the cadastral system in Trinidad and Tobago underwent a revision to improve the management of the cadastral information. Shortly thereafter, in 2016, a governance assessment of the wider land governance, inclusive of the indicators signified by the status of the land registry and cadastre, was performed. This paper evaluates the status of the cadastre before and after the revision of the cadastral information system, using the findings of the governance assessment to determine how much closer the system now sits in relation to the ideals promoted by the VGGTs.

The methodology used for this assessment was to compare indicators before and after the cadastral revision to determine the change in closeness of the cadastre to the VGGTs. A review of the status of the cadastre was done prior to the revision of the system. During the subsequent land governance assessment, which was supported by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), participatory meetings were held with knowledgeable and experienced persons to discuss the status of land governance in various areas. This provided data for the indicators and also background information on the status of the cadastral system. The revision of the cadastral management information system was undertaken by Trimble and funded by the

IDB.

The findings of the assessment were that subsequent to the reform activities, publicity was increased but much of the information was still unavailable. Whereas there was no online view of the cadastre prior to the revision there is now visibility but there is limited information to be accessed. 204,160 parcels now have an identifier and this has increased inclusiveness of the system information but there remain large numbers of parcels that have not been included.

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