

The Role of the Eastern Africa Land Administration Network (EALAN) in Promoting Land Administration Education in Eastern Africa

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SUMMARY

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Many African countries have been noted to lack the human and institutional capacities required to implement sustainable land policies. This in turn has affected the various aspects of land management i.e. land rights recognition, land titling, land use planning, land taxation and development of accurate land information. The result has been inefficient land use planning, ineffective land registries and land use conflicts and disputes. Building effective land administration is the only way out. However, this endeavor will only be possible if all key stakeholders are allowed to contribute to the process.

Many countries are now working hard towards development and/or modernizing their land administration systems to address the shortcomings through various land reforms. In the academic arena, the last 10 years saw remarkable promotion of land administration education through an increase in the number of academic programs and networks in land administration in the Eastern Africa region. The Eastern Africa Land Administration Network (EALAN) was established in 2008 by Institutions of Higher Learning in the region. EALAN acts as a platform to share and exchange ideas, skills, experiences, knowledge, plans and programs on land administration and management within the Eastern Africa region through training, education, research, practice and dissemination. The network has 12 member institutions from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, DRC, Ethiopia and South Sudan. This paper looks at the role of EALAN as an academic network in promotion of land administration systems. It is argued that academic networks have a role to play on aspects of Land Administration education, training and outreach. The contribution of networks is relatively cheaper due to the economies of scale occasioned by the presence of many members working together towards the same objective.

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