

“its4land”- Innovative geospatial solutions for land tenure recording

Mila Koeva (Netherlands)

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SUMMARY

Sub-Saharan Africa has an immense challenge to rapidly and cheaply map millions of unrecognized land rights in the region. Existing approaches for mapping and recording these land rights have failed: land disputes abound, investment is impeded, and the community’s poorest usually lose out. Good land records can help to deliver tenure security, dispute reduction, investment opportunities, and good governance: secure land rights are the cornerstone of much of the economic, environmental, and social security across the developed world. In this vein, H 2020 its4land project used the strategic collaboration between the EU and East Africa to deliver an innovative, scalable, and transferrable ICT solution. The main objective of its4land was to develop an innovative suite of land tenure recording tools inspired by geo-information technologies, that responds to end-user needs and market opportunities in sub-Saharan Africa, reinforcing an existing strategic collaboration between EU and East Africa. The specific objectives for its4land were to 1) capture the specific needs, market opportunities, and readiness of end-users in the domain of land tenure information recording in Eastern Africa; 2) co-design, adapt, integrate, demonstrate, and validate a land tenure recording suite based on small unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV’s), smart sketch maps, automated feature extraction, and geocloud services; and 3) develop and valorize a governance model that realizes the innovation process by aligning end-users conditions, technological opportunity, business models, and capacity-building requirements. The project was for four years and received €3.9M funding. The consortium was multi-sectoral, multi-national, and multidisciplinary collaborating with stakeholders from six case study locations in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Rwanda. The major tasks were tool development, prototyping, and demonstration for local, national, regional, and international interest groups. The case locations cover different land uses such as urban, peri-urban, rural smallholder, and (former) pastoralist in Rwanda, Ethiopia, Kenya and Zanzibar. In the workshop of FIG we will share the achieved results and the way forward.

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