

The Global Land Tool Network and Partners - Achievements and Challenges on Pro Poor Land Management Approaches

Ulrik Westman, UN-Habitat, Kenya

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SUMMARY

There are few more contentious and complex problems in the world than those dealing with land and secure tenure. Many religions have firm rules on land and inheritance, most communities have deeply ingrained cultural traditions, and every government faces the challenge of land differently with its own vast array of laws and with varying degrees of political will. In many countries the rules work against women owning land for a range of reasons, from poverty to custom. In wealthy countries land records cover most of the territory and are generally well kept, however, few developing countries have more than 30 per cent of their land accounted for in records. Land records are also often linked to the middle and commercial classes. In many countries, there is large-scale corruption associated with land. In post conflict societies, land is a key issue as it is often closely associated with the conflict. Sound land governance approaches are therefore primary in building peace.

At the same time, very few pro-poor, gender sensitive tools exist to address land issues. As a result, while many excellent land policies have been drafted, implementation of these policies remains a profound barrier to poverty reduction and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

The Global Land Tool Network (GLTN) was initiated in 2004 to respond to this challenge. Its objectives are two-fold: (i) to increase global knowledge, awareness and tools to support pro-poor and gender sensitive land management, and (ii) to work in selected countries to apply pro-poor and gender sensitive tools in line with the recommendations regarding U.N. Reform and the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness.

Its broad aims are to:

- establish a continuum of land rights, from perceived security of tenure to intermediate forms of tenure such as certificates, and including individual freehold title,
- improve and develop pro poor land management as well as land tenure tools,
- unblock existing initiatives, assist in strengthening existing land networks,
- improve global coordination on land, assist in the development of gendered tools which are affordable and useful to the grassroots,
- and improve the general dissemination of knowledge about how to implement security of tenure.

Seven priority areas have been identified for GLTN, including:

- • Affordable national land record management (land access and land reform)
- Land administration and land governance
- Land administration approaches for post conflict societies • Land use planning at the regional, national and city-wide levels
- Affordable gendered land tools (e.g. adjudication) • Affordable and just estates administration (especially for HIV/AIDS areas) • Pro-poor expropriation and compensation, and
- Pro poor regulatory frameworks for the private sector.

The network is a long term initiative to support and upscale ongoing initiatives on systematic, innovative, pro-poor, affordable and gender sensitive land tools. The paper will provide an update on current GLTN initiatives as well as presenting an overview on the way forward.

CONTACT

Ulrik Westman

Associate Human Settlements Officer

United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT)

Shelter and Sustainable Human Settlements Development Division

Shelter Branch, Land, Tenure and Property Administration Section

Rm M-117

P.O. Box 300 30

00 100 Nairobi

KENYA

Tel. + 254 20 762 31 16

Cell: + 254 (0) 733 66 20 13

Fax: + 254 20 762 42 65

E-mail: ulrik.westman@unhabitat.org,

Web: www.unhabitat.org