

STDM Piloting in St Lucia and St Vincent

Charisse Griffith-Charles (Trinidad And Tobago)

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SUMMARY

Insecure tenure in SIDS countries can increase the vulnerabilities of those affected and reduce their resilience in the face of anticipated climate change impacts. Insecure tenure can affect the ability of land occupants to mitigate, withstand and recover from disaster impact. The presence of informal and insecure tenure also affects the ability of the land administration institutions to maintain current tenure data and thus to plan and monitor built development.

During the period 2012 to 2014, the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) was assisted by the Australian government's aid agency, AusAID, and UNHabitat, together with the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, in the developing of regional land policy guidelines to address the land issues being experienced by the countries. Establishing a land policy requires land administration that contains comprehensive and current land information to underpin analysis of the critical land issues. The land information is also necessary to monitor the effectiveness of any initiatives proposed and implemented through the land policy. The land policy project therefore included the piloting of the Social Tenure Domain Model (STDM) software in Saint Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The STDM is an example of a land tool than can help to create and maintain land administration that would support the implementation of economic, social, and environmental land policy goals.

Piloting the STDM took place in Saint Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The technical aspects of ease of use of the software and speed of implementation as well as perceptions of its applicability to the environments can be examined to determine if the concept of the STDM as well as the practical aspects of its application, using the software, are feasible and acceptable to the

societies in which it may be rolled out. The experiences and perceptions of the stakeholder groups as well as other external factors such as institutional capacity, and project or programme funding capacity were explored to determine whether the process of recording informal tenure can be adopted and continued to completion in these pilot countries and the other countries of the OECS sub region. These experiences can also inform whether other small island developing states (SIDS) with similar social characteristics and land tenure issues will be minded to adopt the concept as well as the software process in their own countries or in relevant communities within their countries.

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Charisse Griffith-Charles (Trinidad And Tobago)

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