

**Report to the 34<sup>th</sup> General Assembly  
FIG Working Week 2011 in Marrakech, Morocco**

**FIG Africa Task Force  
Report of Activities 2010**

**1. General**

The FIG Africa Task Force (ATF) is a new initiative aimed at supporting FIG African member associations and academic members over the period 2010-2014. This global Task Force emerged in response to consideration by the FIG Council and approved by General Assembly in Eilat, Israel, May 2009. The terms of reference and supporting material can be viewed at [www.fig.net](http://www.fig.net)). The key purpose of the task force is to enable the surveying profession in Sub Saharan Africa to deal with social responsibility in terms of contributing to achieving the MDGs. In this regard, the role of the surveyors as change agents engaging with the politicians is important.

Each year the Task force invites an African member association to co-host the workshop event. The first workshop was hosted jointly with the Institution of Surveyors Kenya (ISK) who organised the logistical arrangements in Kenya for the two-day workshop on Peri - Urban Settlements: Tools & Techniques for Surveyors to ensure Environmental and Social Resilience in Mombasa, Kenya, 11-12 November 2010.

**2. Report on the Africa Task Force: Regional Africa Workshop “Proactive Planning for Infrastructure in Peri - Urban Settlements: Tools & Techniques for Surveyors to ensure Environmental and Social Resilience**

The AFT organised a two-day workshop on Peri - Urban Settlements: Tools & Techniques for Surveyors to ensure Environmental and Social Resilience in Mombasa, Kenya, 11-12 November 2010. The two day Workshop considered and devised a format for a new and creative tool to revitalise and strengthen FIG members within Sub Saharan Africa and will present its findings at FIG Working Week in Marrakech in May 2011.

This workshop was targeted at senior and middle level land professionals in the private and public sector and educational and land professional institutes. It brought together decision makers and practitioners from several African nations (Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Tanzania, Rwanda, South Africa and Zambia) with expertise across the range land professional disciplines within the FIG membership.

Africa faces considerable challenges in the next couple of years, and development must be accelerated further. Within the framework of Professional Development and Ethics the task force in 2010 looked at developing capacity and relevant tools in the key areas of:

Peri-urban development – to develop tools to plan for access rights to infrastructure in peri- urban areas, and thereby also complimenting the current FIG efforts to increase access to secure tenure

As African nations struggle with Land Governance issues associated with achieving the Millennium Development Goals, over a two day workshop the Task Force objectives were to:

- Define the critical issues upon which to work;
- Develop raw material for support tools to enable the core team to develop and disseminate for further decision at the FIG WW In Marrakech 2011;
- Devise appropriate tools that will be helpful to member Associations to help their own members to ensure Environmental and social resilience.

These objectives were achieved and a theme for a tool was agreed to be worked upon over the next few months. The deliberations of how this was achieved are explained below.

An invitation letter was sent to all member associations in sub Saharan Africa requesting that they circulate amongst their members. Other special invites were sent to African land professionals (Planners and Engineers) as well as the Ordre National des Ingénieurs Géomètres topographes (ONIGT), in Morocco, and because ATF roundtable will be held at the Working Week in Marrakech. In addition ISK held a student competition, the award for the best paper was a funded place (by ATF and ISK), to attend the workshop.

Drawing on a strong African network, a list of speakers was invited to present core information. Delegates were limited to 60, an initial list of participants were drawn from the registration process organised by ATF in respect of International attendees, and ISK in respect of national attendees

Based on a participatory format, participants were expected to contribute in both open forums and break out sessions. By designing an interactive two day workshop the participants were split into six groups of up to ten members in which to carry out the two days' activities. Participants reviewed the content of information given, made criticisms, suggestions, raised concerns as well as making additions to improve the existing framework.

An overview of peri urban development was provided in setting the scene with three presentations:

- Professor Enemark provided the key Note, the MDG overview;
- Professor Saad Yahya provided a view of periurban Africa, definitions and categories;
- Emmanuel Offeiakrofi presented Land for Periurban Infrastructure in Customary Areas, a case study of Ghana.

### **Outcome of the Workshop**

The consensus reached at the end of the workshop discussion is that:

- By End February the core team would consider and prepare ideas for tool structure,
- During March all participants will engage and comment
- During April the draft tool will be refined further,
- In May at the FIG Working week in Morocco, the draft tool is brought to the Roundtable for further discussion and agreement

A short workshop publication based on the deliberations is being prepared and is planned to be available as a briefing document for the roundtable in 2011.

## **Closing remarks**

The value of the land professional asks some fundamental questions about the place of land administration and management in modern African society. In what way does good land economics– in this case, lateral thinking about infrastructure routes– produce economic and social value? What do rigoursley imposed and monitored infrastructure routes give back in hard financial and utilitarian terms to those who fund and use them? How can that value be meaningfully captured so that community and government investors and developers are persuaded that forward design adds to the bottom line and gives their settlements a lasting edge?

This taskforce workshop is based on a comprehensive participatory approach that begins to answer these questions. Encouragingly, the answers suggest that good professional thinking brings very specific economic, social and environmental benefits to a range of stakeholders.

This workshop presented here is not an academic exercise. It is intended to form part of a growing resource of information which can underpin member associations decisions and activities by disseminating and further providing appropriate tools for their land professionals. From FIG's perspective, it performs part of an effort to ensure that Sub Saharan African land professionals have a platform in which to raise and develop their own tools for their own country contexts.

For FIG this is an excellent starting point from which to build up the evidential core of our work for our land professional members in Sub Saharan Africa (and elsewhere). We aim to now to cast the net wider than just the workshop and look at capturing the thinking and input from the wider FIG membership at the Roundtable in Morocco 2011.

Dr Diane Dumashie  
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