Optimising Land Information Management in Tribal Lands of Botswana

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Outline of presentation
- Introduction
- Administration of land in rural Botswana
- The land information nexus
- The Tribal Land Information System
- Data collection to populate system
- LIS Model
- Conclusion

Introduction
- Land forms the basis of any economic development and its proper management can only be achieved if information on the said land is available. Land information collection, however, has always been an expensive exercise and therefore in most areas in rural Botswana, information is incomplete.

Administration of land in tribal Land
- Tribal land is administered by Land Boards
- Governed by the Tribal Land Act
- The Act governs access, use and disposal of 71% of land in Botswana

Land Boards functions
- The granting of rights of use of any land
- The cancellation of any grant of any right to use any land
- Hearing of appeals from confirming or setting aside any decision of any subordinate Land authority;
- The imposition of restriction on the use of tribal land

Problems
- Failure to deliver on the said functions
- Presidential Commission (2001) noted the poor state of records both in terms of land board minutes as well as the land inventory.
- Issues of land tenure affect how information is gathered
Certificate of rights Vs Title Deed

- Applicant
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- Certificate

Development of the Tribal Land Information Systems
- Previous attempts
  - Maun-for physical planning
  - Ramotswa- aerial photographs included
  - Goodhope- integration of survey data with other data
  - LYNISIS- Land Inventory for Tribal Areas of Botswana

TLIMS
- Tribal Land Information Management System would integrate land administration work.
- The system is to have the following functionalities
  - Land Use Plan,
  - Process Plot Applications,
  - Plot allocations,
  - Change Land Use,
  - Transfer Land Title, Plot Registration, Sub-Divisions, Sub-Leasing/Sub-Letting, Development Control/Compliance, Acquisition and Compensation, Adjudication and Land Board Revenue

Data collection
- For system to work geographical and attribute data need to be collected
  - Defining Boundaries-includes adjudication
  - Attribute information- ownership nature of use of the land and origin of the original land ownership

Defining Boundaries
1. Use of Orthophotos and DXF files from Department of Surveys and Mapping- All major villages are being mapped at 1:5000
2. Land Registry data-owner, market status etc

Land Information Model-Schematic data flow
**Conclusion**

- Land Information System must form the basis of all spatial data and would be used in the management of land in rural areas.
- Though the collection of data required to populate the land information system seems onerous, it is a process that needs to be done if the information system will truly be meaningful.
- Integration of customary and statutory systems remains a major challenge for policy in Africa, and more work is required to clarify both the technical and institutional options available.