The Readiness of the Trinidad and Tobago Cadastral System for Recovery from Disaster

Charisse GRIFFITH-CHARLES
Trinidad and Tobago
Business Continuity Plan (BCP) Process

1. Provide management guidelines
2. Identify risks
3. Prioritise operations to be maintained and procedure
4. Create, and assign staff to, disaster teams
5. Take inventory of data
6. Know where to get help
7. Document plan
8. Review plan
9. Maintain and revise plan periodically
2. Identify Risks – Is the Cadastral System Vulnerable to Disaster?

- Compare past experiences internationally
- Compare past local experiences
## International Experiences

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Pre-disaster</th>
<th>Post-disaster</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Aceh (Tsunami 2004)</strong></td>
<td>No back-up or archived cadastral data</td>
<td>300,000 land parcels affected</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>New Orleans (Hurricane 2005)</td>
<td>Available online database on parcel flood status</td>
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<tr>
<td>Largely informal tenure</td>
<td>Backed-up and archived cadastral data off-site</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-10% parcels registered</td>
<td>Completely formal tenure</td>
<td>90,000 certificates of title damaged</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>100% parcels registered</td>
<td>Back-up data recovered</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Platinum Partners:

Diamond Partner:

Trimble.

esri.
Identify Risks
Local Experiences

1903 – Red House fire destroyed many documents
1990 – Attempted coup destroyed many documents
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RISK</th>
<th>EFFECTS</th>
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</table>
| LOCAL – Fire, Flood, Conflict, Corrupted data | • Loss of knowledge  
• Damage to records  
• Loss of records | Record, Duplicate, archive, - knowledge, records, - within building, close by, - small volume requirement | • Individual  
• Community  
• State |
| NATIONAL – Earthquake, Hurricane, Tsunami, Conflict, Digital hacking, Software obsolescence | • Loss of knowledge  
• Damage to records  
• Loss of records | Record, Duplicate, archive, - knowledge, records, - out of country - large volume requirement | • Individual  
• Community  
• State  
• Region  
• International |
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Prioritise operations to be maintained and procedure

- Support informal occupation to prevent remaining in disaster area
- Reinstate informal occupants to prevent land grabbing
- Provide cadastral information for temporary relocation
- Prevent corruption and fraud
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Inventory of Data - Cadastral Records Types and Locations

TYPES

- Plans, indices – analogue, digital
- Legal records – deeds, titles – analogue, digital
- Land tax records – analogue, digital
- Topographic maps – analogue, digital

LOCATIONS

- State central repository
- State decentralised offices
- Community knowledge
- Community repositories
- Household documents and knowledge
- Surveyors, attorneys offices
• cadastral plans are not individually coordinated.
• The cadastral index and the filed cadastral plans do not contain all evidence of rights as many parcels are not surveyed
• no formal title is held for many parcels
• Some parcels, even though not surveyed may be described verbally in a deed.
• Deeds and titles are stored at the Registrar General’s Office but no link to cadastral map
Cadastral Records Status – Uncoordinated plans
Cadastral Records Status – Incomplete Coverage
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<td>• Loss of knowledge</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hurricane, Tsunami</td>
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<td>volume requirement</td>
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