**FAO Land Tenure Service**
Mika-Petteri Törhönen and Willi Zimmermann

**Good Governance in Land Tenure and Administration**
A FAO normative project

### 6th FIG Regional Conference for Africa - Accra, Ghana, 8-11 March 2006

**FAO and the Land Tenure Service**

- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
- Land Tenure Service
- Normative work
- Field work

**Land Tenure Service; Normative 2006 -**

- Sustainable and affordable systems, including security of tenure, for access to land and other natural resources.
  - low-cost land tenure security
  - post emergency land institutions
  - land information for the poor
  - good governance in land administration

**Land Tenure Service; Normative**

- Access to rural land and land administration after violent conflicts

**Good Governance**

- Governments, Authorities:
  - Elected, selected, accountable
  - Create and implement policies and regulations
  - Interact with citizens, serve
  - Indicators: Accountability, Stability, Effectiveness, Regulatory Quality, Transparency, Rule of Law, Control of Corruption

**Features of Weak Governance**

- Distorted decision making
- Hindered competitive markets
- Increased costs – reduced benefits
- Reduced revenue collection
- Non-productivity – repression
- Last in line, the poor, bear the burden
Consequences of Weak Governance

- Economic development: Hindrance
- For the poor: Marginalisation
- Environment: Overexploitation
- Society: Instability
- Development cooperation: Illegitimacy

International Initiatives

- Treaties, codes and conventions on governance, business ethics, corruption
  
  > UNCAC (UN convention against corruption)

- Indices on corruption, business environment ...

- Publications and material focused on forestry, natural resources, planning, urban governance ...

- Nothing available focusing on land tenure and land administration per se.

Why Good Governance in Land Tenure and Land Administration?

- Access to land and the security of tenure form the foundation for:
  
  > Food security
  > Social stability
  > Economic growth
  > Poverty Reduction

- Governance can enhance or stagnate development

Governance in Land Administration

- Problems common, large and global
- Not well documented, published
- No longer forbidden topics of discussion
- Not many corrective advice or actions in place

Weak Governance in Land Tenure

- Excessive, expensive, procedures hinder investments and marginalise the poor
- Administration used for systemic, uncontrolled, corruption
- Legitimises right violations and bad development; destruction, evictions
- Hampers management of public lands
- Converts public assets for private gain

Weak Governance in Land Tenure

- Conversion bypasses revenue collection
- Revenue flows to few
- Peri-urban development (huge) serves wrong interests
- Contributes to irregular, unplanned, uncontrolled, development
- Causes instability
- Factor behind violent conflicts
**FAO response**
- FAO normative project
- 2006 - 2009
- Land Tenure Service & Partners involved:
  - Member countries
  - World Bank Thematic Group on Land
  - Others

**Aims, Objectives**
- **Overall Objective**: Improving the governance in land administration.
- **Aim**: Advise and raise awareness on issues in developing land administration systems applying the principles of good governance.

**Modules**
- Conceptualisation
- Significance and quantification
- Awareness raising
- Technical guidelines
- Code of Conduct

**What can be done**
- **Understand**: magnitude, significance
- **Educate**: public, practitioners, clients
- **Re-engineer**: legislation, organisations, systems, procedures, financing
- **Capacity building**: public and private sectors

**Land Administration and Good Governance**

THANK YOU
Mika-Petteri Törhönen
Willi Zimmermann

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