

Development and Implementation of Land Information Systems: Building an Effective Partnership to Reform Uganda's Land Administration and Management System

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SUMMARY

Abstract: Thomson Reuters and IGN France, with World Bank funding, completed Phase 1 of a four year project in Uganda to build a more transparent and efficient land administration system. The Project demonstrates the importance of a long-term national commitment to create an enabling legal framework and provides important lessons on creating an effective technical partnership to improve the land administration foundation for Uganda. The development and implementation of Uganda's Land Information System (LIS) was formally initiated through the growth of a policy and legal framework in the 1990s, which resulted in the Land Sector Strategic Plan (LSSP) 2002–2012. The foundation of this Plan, however, dates back to a number of legal and regulatory developments and LIS studies carried out in the late 1980s. The Project's main objective was to contribute to the establishment of an efficient land administration system in Uganda, to facilitate and improve the delivery of basic land services to the population and improve land tenure security. The Project, concluding in early 2014, is implemented through five components: Detailed Design; Data Conversion and Data Acquisition; Registration and Cadastral Data Integration; LIS Implementation (including software development and training); and Review of the Design and Preparation for the Roll Out of the LIS. Phase I of the LIS development included the design of the LIS and piloting in six (6) Ministry Zonal Offices. This paper concerns Phase I, which is now complete, of which Thomson Reuters has supported. Phase II will enhance the Land Information through inclusion of land use; land valuation and survey functions; enhancement of system security and transition to online services for Client. This Phase has yet to commence. The Project offers several achievements and lessons learned including: • The effective decentralization of land administration and management services to the six (6) Ministry Zonal Offices of Jinja, Mukono, Wakiso, Kampala, Masaka and Mbarara which handle 60 to 70% of land transactions in Uganda; • Improved transparency and system integrity through the new ability to generate reports on staff performance and transactions of the Land Administration system; • The digitization of all leasehold and freehold titles through a new LIS management system; • The identification and elimination of problems of double plotting and double referencing for titles, common with the manual system of operation; • The new ability of LIS users to carry out instant LIS searches; • Creation of new digital base maps which include data on forests and forest reserves, road reserves, water bodies and enhance the quality assurance and quality control capacity of surveys and mapping. This case study will examine the interrelated factors of an enabling legal framework, effective technical partnerships, and a national commitment by the Government of Uganda to develop and scale its new LIS and Land Administration System.