Land-Related Tasks and Possibilities
Related to Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals

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Key words: Access to land; Cadastre; Capacity building; Land management; Security of tenure; SDG; Land administration systems; Capacity development

SUMMARY

Potential work tasks related to the establishment of land administration systems

- Based on the Danish system

The UN’s Sustainable Development Goals for 2030 (SDGs) place sustainable development at the top of the agenda for governments, companies and populations. Both goal 1: No poverty and goal 2: Zero hunger specifically address the lack of protection of land tenure rights and use rights that subject large portions of the world’s population to poverty and hunger.

In order to ensure the fulfilment of the SDGs, the establishment of land administration systems is central. In connection with the establishment of land administration systems in developing countries, resistance to these changes may occur at both local and central levels because they may be considered to be a threat to structures that already exist and to existing work tasks/jobs.

In this paper, this potential barrier to the implementation of land administration projects is dealt with by making possible work tasks visible in connection with, and after the establishment of, land administration systems.

With a view to changing the mindset, both locally and centrally, and in order to take any resistance to the establishment of land administration systems into account, the participatory process and opportunity for education and use of local labour in “capacity development” are described, which may be an important driver for decision makers in connection with the implementation of land administration
When establishing the basis for maps and determination of boundary lines, regardless of the registration method chosen, there is a need to train local people to assist the local surveyors with the identification and determination/surveying of boundary lines in a large-scale format. The local surveyors will therefore play a natural key role in connection with the introduction of land administration systems.

After the establishment of land administration systems, maintenance of both the basis for maps and property databases is a crucial factor for optimum use of the systems, as well as an important factor for ensuring that the systems do not become out of data and the investment is wasted. Maintenance is a regular, ongoing task for both educated surveyors and administrative personnel.

The description in this paper takes inspiration from the Danish system, in which the registration of property in the cadaster, the land registry and municipal registers also provide the basis for a number of administrative systems, for example:

- Planning of construction projects.
- Valuation and subsequent taxation of the registered properties.
- Planning and determination of land use.
- Land governance of the open land, natural resources, mining and quarrying, etc.

These tasks may potentially create many jobs in the administrative sector, while providing a good basis for the administration of the country’s properties, natural resources, and, indeed, sustainable development.