Fit-for-Purpose to Formality: An Analysis of Land Tenure Intervention Applying Fit-for-Purpose Approaches and Leading to Formally Recognized Land Rights

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Key words: Cadastre; Informal settlements; Low cost technology; Security of tenure; Young surveyor

SUMMARY

With the publication of "Fit-For-Purpose Land Administration" in 2014 as a joint FIG and World Bank Publication, a new era of land administration service delivery began. Initially met with resistance by some given a perceived relaxation in standards, it has since steadily gained traction. In the international aid sector, the concept of Fit-For-Purpose (FFP) is seen as having catalyzed and democratised data capture using new technologies, as opposed to eroding data accuracy. The data capture, and the associated rights, have then been brought into formality for the first time - an initial step along a continuum of land rights.

In recent years, traditional surveying methodologies have been further challenged as a result of COVID-19 restrictions, and resulted in the need for an increase of locally-led and FFP approaches being used out of necessity for safety. This paper details four recent examples in which Cadasta Foundation employed locally-driven FFP approaches leading to formal recognition of land rights in Zanzibar, Brazil, Uganda and India. Particular to note within the paper is the role in which youth, including through the Volunteer Community Surveyor Program (VCSP) and the FIG Young Surveyors Network (YSN) played a role in supporting or participating in land governance processes.

The paper will explore each project case study in depth, detailing the variations and commonalities, based on field observations, data collected, and stakeholder interviews. For each case study, the spatial, institutional, and legal frameworks of the land administration systems will serve as the lens for analysis and comparison. Importantly, input from government agencies responsible for the collection and maintenance of survey data will be gathered with a particular focus on future plans for continued scale up or cessation of the FFP approaches.

Fit-for-Purpose to Formality: An Analysis of Land Tenure Intervention Applying Fit-for-Purpose Approaches and Leading to Formally Recognized Land Rights (11429) Frank Pichel (USA), Justus Wambayi and Diana Kyalo (Kenya) The paper will also assess each project against the four key principles of FFP land administration in order to analyze how the projects align with each principle. Finally, we will assess the approaches against more traditional approaches used in adjacent jurisdictions of each project. Ultimately, the paper seeks to identify some of the contributing factors leading to successful use of FFP approaches, and how they might be replicated and scaled up.

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