

Securing Tenure through Responsive Land Use Planning: An Innovative Tool for Country Level Interventions

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Key words: Security of tenure; Spatial planning; Land use planning, tenure security, continuum of land rights

SUMMARY

As we move towards the period for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) in 2015, it is obvious that the challenge posed by land tenure insecurity will remain with us also in the post-2015 era. This generation, having inherited land from the previous generations, has also inherited the challenges associated with land. That is, the responsibility of eradicating or reducing poverty, food insecurity, tenure insecurity, environmental risks, climate change mitigation and adaptation, etc. It is most likely that we will continue (whether as individuals, groups, communities or nations) to face these challenges unless we scale up actions for improvement.

In order to address these challenges, it is important to reassess how people use land, as well as the relationships people have with respect to land and other natural resources. This makes land use planning and land tenure security important aspects for improving the situation. Concerns surrounding land use planning and tenure security are important for achieving global development goals. It is very important that individuals and communities in rural and urban areas have some level of certainty that others and governments would not infringe on their interests (e.g. ownerships, privileges, rights, among others) in land. Though land use planning and tenure security are equally important and interlinked issues for development, very often the two issues are addressed separately in planning and development practices. In many developing countries, often land use planning initiatives exist but are not sufficiently linked with tenure security.

The paper envisages that it is possible to secure tenure through land use planning processes which are participatory and inclusive, and recognize a continuum of land rights (both formal and informal) including the rights of disadvantaged groups (like women, indigenous people, pastoralists and the landless). This study is based on an on-going project co-financed by the Global Land Tool Network (GLTN), the Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and the Technical University of

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Munich (TUM).

Methodologically, the study is based on the GLTN good practice learning cycle that involves assessment from case studies conducted in six countries selected from Africa, Asia and Latin America. Scoping studies were backed by a series of Expert Group Meetings (EGMs) held in Germany and USA as well as concise literature reviews on land use planning and land tenure security issues documented by key agencies like GIZ, FAO, World Bank and IFAD among other agencies. The project also involves the development of an e-learning package for training on tenure security responsive land use planning particularly for developing countries.

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