

Pro Poor Land Administration

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SUMMARY

Governments need information to govern – this implies the availability of a complete overview of all people to land relationships. It is estimated that about 75% of the people to land relationships world wide is not documented. A substantial part of this concerns the urban and rural poor. An overview of those relations is urgently needed - in many places with poverty one can find landless people, victims of forced evictions or land grabbing, gender inequality and discrimination, etc. Pressure is increasing: land gets scarce. In the last two decades a lot of progress has been made in pro poor approaches in land administration. Recognition of all people to land relationships (informal, customary and formal) is the foundation: UN Habitats ‘Continuum of Land Rights’ is a paradigm shift. This new way of thinking was adopted by the profession and unconventional and innovative approaches have been developed. Approaches for fit for purpose cadastres and for pro poor land recordation that can be aligned with progressive development of land administration systems are available. This paper provides an overview of those developments with a focus to further operationalisation and implementation. Experience from practise confirms the value of the new approaches. A continuum in spatial units, in accuracy, in approaches and technology can be applied in data acquisition and maintenance – for spatial as well as administrative data. The paper introduces aspects of Pro Poor Land Administration from a practical perspective.