

‘Cadastre 2014’: a Beacon in Turbulent Times.

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SUMMARY

In the almost 16 years of its existence, the readers of ‘Cadastre 2014’ might have observed that the quest for efficient and effective cadastres reached manifest high levels. Although the word ‘cadastre’ became a bit maligned, because ‘cadastres’ were too much associated with western type full fledged state guaranteed property titles, still many people were convinced that ‘something’ was needed that could safeguard land tenure security for the unrecorded owners or users of land. When we realize that the word ‘cadastre’ just means ‘list’, that ‘something’ could be indicated as a ‘cadastre’ in its original sense. This paper places ‘Cadastre 2014’ in a broader context of rapid urbanization, food security, climate change and informal economies. These items are issues which are high on the global political agenda: that is to say within the overall goal of poverty eradication. Time and again one of the solutions is found in the provision of security of land tenure for the poor, whether slum dwellers (urbanization), farmers (food security), land users and foresters (climate change) and businesses (informal economies). But from project evaluations it became clear that full fledged property titles are not considered to be appropriate to achieve that goal. The demand for recognition of a variety of human-land relationships has meanwhile been adopted by the UN and the urge for low cost information systems that allow fast and cheap recording of those rights has become pervasive last decade. ‘Cadastre 2014’ has been a beacon in this turbulent world, providing the general principles for thinking about cadastres, guiding governmental and non-governmental organizations to getting their things right.