

Can the MapMyRights Initiative be a Game Changer?

Robin McLaren (United Kingdom)

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SUMMARY

The current solutions to delivering land administration services have very limited global outreach; 75% of the world's population do not have access to formal systems to register and safeguard their land rights. The majority of these are the poor and the most vulnerable in society and without any level of security of tenure they constantly live in threat of eviction. For example, foreign investors through large scale land acquisitions have attained 32.8 million hectares of land in largely poor and middle-income countries since 2000; many indigenous people have lost rights to their land. This creates significant instabilities in society and severely limits their ability to participate in economic development. The pressure to change and provide more appropriate and efficient land administration services and strengthen security of tenure is growing within global political circles. Land was prominent on the agenda for the G8 and G20 meetings in 2013 and global land indicators are planned within the replacement of the Millennium Development Goals. The ability of the current land administration paradigm to quickly scale up to engage the excluded 75% of the world's population is impossible; there are simply insufficient land professions. It is time to radically rethink how we record and manage land rights. The OpenCadastreMap (OCM) initiative is reacting to these challenges by proposing a radical new approach by providing a free to use, transparent, global platform where citizens can record evidence of their land rights. The proposed solution is based on global cloud based platforms, ISO land information standards, mobile technology and participatory / crowdsourcing techniques to capturing and maintaining land rights. This paper will describe the objectives of OCM, identify the interventions required to achieve the goals, detail the governance arrangements to stimulate the evolution of an OCM ecosystem and highlight scenarios of its potential impact across the land sector as a game changer.