

LADM - A Tool for Land Administration in Post-Conflict Colombia

Andrés Guarín, Lina Baron (Colombia), Lorenz Jenni (Switzerland) and Silvia Salamanca (Colombia)

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SUMMARY

Colombia is a country experiencing one of the continent's longest standing internal armed conflicts, with more than 50 years of war. The result of the violence has been a systematic process of displacement, where the population mostly affected by abandonment or forced displacement (CNMH, 2015) is found in rural areas (87% of all victims).

Although it is not possible to have an exact figure regarding abandoned or dispossessed land due to shortcomings in the country's cadastral and registry information systems (UNHCR, 2012), estimations assume that about 6.5 million hectares could have been affected by the displacement processes (González, 2013).

A new government policy document (CONPES 3859, 2016) characterizes the current state of cadastral information and its articulation with the registry, evidencing the need for a mechanism to strengthen the country's cadastral system and its articulation with the property registry. Likewise, it is necessary to have a National Land Management System (SNGT), which, based on the principles of interoperability and legal independence, allows entities related to the administration of territorial objects to manage information in an versatile and reliable way, and where the cadastre-registry information constitutes the basis.

As part of the conceptualization of a new framework for the cadastre and its relation with the property registry, which allows a greater efficiency in the information management and guarantees the required traceability of data used for land administration as well as for the land restitution and tenure formalization processes in Colombia, the National Geographic Institute (IGAC), the Property Registry (SNR), the National Land Agency (ANT) and the Land Restitution Unit (URT) decided to adopt the ISO19152:2012

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(LADM).

Thus, one of the first tasks performed by the mentioned entities, with the support of the Swiss Cooperation (SECO) and based on the experience of several experts in the standard, was to create a country profile of the ISO norm (LADM-COL), in which the particularities of Colombia are considered.

Beside the LADM-COL, IGAC as the maximum cadastral authority, has formulated several standards and technical specifications which must be fulfilled by all entities that have competencies in the domain and that want to interoperate with the new cadastre.

These technical specifications are focused on guaranteeing the quality of the information so that it can become part of the national cadastral base. Also the rights, restrictions and the responsibilities for each parcel are detailed. The provision of integrated quality cadastre data will support the different institutions entitled with the restitution and regularization processes, and allows for quicker and seamless updating of the immovable property registry.

The introduction of the LADM-COL as a conceptual model for land administration in Colombia has generated new challenges and commitments within the institutions that are part of the management of the information of spatial objects of the model. A fundamental pillar for this is the Colombian Spatial Data Infrastructure (ICDE) (Williamson, 2002). The document shows the actions taken to ensure that the ICDE guarantees the needed interoperability through the definition of appropriate standards and information policies, aimed at supporting the SNGT.