

Land Administration Strategy during Uncertainty and Fit-for-Purpose LA Style Initiatives

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SUMMARY

The paper comprises two parts. The first part draws on two forthcoming volumes on land administration during uncertainty. It examines strategy formulation to improve land administration in uncertain environments, and presents methodologies for analysing a situation before, during and after formulating and executing strategies. The FIG and World Bank Fit-for-Purpose land administration (FFPLA) initiative offers a prescription for improving land administration, along with the STDN and Continuum of Land Rights initiatives. Nevertheless, there has been resistance to FFPLA adoption. The paper introduces a methodology that might facilitate better adoption of parts of the FFPLA and similar innovations. It briefly covers what constitutes an uncertain environment. It then covers the rational, political and collaborative approaches to strategy formulation, and soft systems methodology, participatory planning and evaluation criteria. Part 2 of the paper presents excerpts from a forthcoming workbook on land administration during uncertainty. It presents a sample of lessons from cases and practice, citing several examples drawn from the author's more than 40 year experience as a practising land and engineering surveyor, city official, middle manager, land consultant and academic researcher. These examples are drawn from practical projects, field research and consulting projects in 16 different countries and experience in developing flexible multi-media software for recording land tenure relationships. The paper contributes to the dialogue on enhancing land administration in uncertain contexts and uses parts of the FFPLA guidelines to structure parts of the discussion. However, it is not a critique of the FFPLA guidelines. The empirical work may inform scenario generation and analyses when formulating strategies that include FFPLA and similar innovations.