Spatial Framework in Chad: An Assessment using COFLAS and the MCC Land Records and Transaction Systems Technology Toolkit for Effective Land Administration

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Key words: Access to land; Affordable housing; Cadastre; Land management; Photogrammetry; Positioning; Remote sensing; Security of tenure; Standards; land administration, spatial framework, Chad, COFLAS

SUMMARY

Chad, dealing with pressing land tenure challenges setting against a backdrop of security, political, and socio-economic crises, is also experiencing significant urbanization. This shift is marked by an growth of informal settlements and the expansion of urban settlements into peri-urban areas. As up to 80% of court cases in the country revolve around intra- and inter-community land disputes, ensuring land tenure security in these rapidly growing and expanding areas is important. Innovative spatial data acquisition methods offer a potential way to secure land tenure and speed up the recordation and registration process. Balancing the preservation of indigenous and customary land practices with the imperatives of modern governance requires tools and frameworks that are both responsive to local contexts and forward-looking.

This paper synthesises the findings of a pilot study in Chad in 2022 using the Framework for Costing and Financing Land Administration Services (COFLAS) and MCC Land Records and Transaction Systems Technology Toolkit to assess the spatial data acquisition methods and draw a vision for the maintenance of a robust spatial framework in Chad.

Utilising COFLAS, the study deep-dives into the financial underpinnings of Chad's land administration services. The focus is on investigating the cost-effectiveness, sustainability, and scalability of various spatial data acquisition methods, formulating the basis for further discussions and a starting point.

Complementing to this, we are using the MCC Land Records and Transaction Systems Technology Toolkit to further enhance the technology assessment. This toolkit aims to evaluate different cadastral mapping processes trialled during a demonstration in October 2022, from orthophoto-based participatory boundary demarcation to mapping with mobile devices . By

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critically assessing these methods based on criteria such as technical performance, practicality, and user-friendliness, the study discerns which spatial data acquisition strategies are most appealing to Chad's unique challenges and opportunities.

Furthermore, the paper emphasizes the significance of maintaining the spatial framework once established. By considering both the initial implementation and long-term maintenance, the study offers a basic vision for Chad's land administration system – one that builds on the effectiveness and capability of modern technology, staff, resources and capacity together with the cultural and socio-economic setting of the country.

In conclusion, by integrating both the analytical features of the COFLAS together with insights of the MCC Toolkit, this study showcases a potential way forward for an effective land administration system in Chad.