

Comparative Land Data for Land Administration Innovation

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SUMMARY

Access to land data is crucial for good land governance. It can support the development of transparent land administration systems, support informed decision making and empower individuals and society. Measuring the access to land data fills a critical gap in the land sector, as our society grows ever-more dependent on data for decision-making and problem-solving.

Developing a comprehensive indicator on the accessibility of land data that is globally comparable (SOLIndex) is an important step in supporting good land governance. The maturing links between open data and land administration is further enhanced by the SOLIndex and complements global efforts to make land data more open and comparable. The SOLIndex tells us about the degree of openness of land information at the global and country level. It also allows us to better understand national and global capabilities in opening up data, particularly in government. Finally, and perhaps more importantly, the SOLIndex serves as a diagnostic to inform us about the most actionable interventions needed to improve access to land data at country and global levels?

The conceptual framework for the SOLI index integrates our understanding of land data, open data and land administration into a systematic and intentional process that connects these constituent components into a coherent whole for describing the state of land data globally. The SOLIndex is developed using a human rights approach to the development of indicators. It is informed by modern land administration for sustainable development theory and the key land administration functions of tenure, use, development and value.

Preliminary results indicate that while more land data exists than is initially anticipated, the data remains fragmented, unstructured, poorly documented and often not open, although public in various ways. Data on land tenure and land value functions tends to be the least open while land

development and land use data tends to be a little more open in general.

This paper provides a brief overview of the SOLIndex and describes the key characteristics of the index as well as other complementary initiatives. It identifies key partnerships and presents the results from the pilot implementation of the SOLIndex in 17 African countries. Finally it will conclude with a brief discussion on the future of the SOLIndex and opportunities for scaling up.

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