Application of GIS in Land Administration in Nigeria - The Example of Federal Land Information System (FELIS)

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Keywords: Geoinformation/GI;Land management;

SUMMARY

Good land management confers security to the land owner/holder and helps the stability of a nation. Any action on land impacts on both the life of the people and the nation and may alter the tone of developments and other activities. It is therefore a critical factor in national development. Information Technology (IT) and Geographic Information System (GIS) provide the tool for modernising and improving the management system, making it more efficient, functional and flexible. The Federal Government of Nigeria embraced the application of IT/GIS in its land records management under the Federal Land Information System (FELIS). The project which was commissioned in 2006 introduced innovations and improvements in the administration of lands held by Federal Ministries, Departments and Agencies in various parts of the country. In consonance, different State Governments and the Federal Capital Territory Administration have also introduced similar systems for the administration of land under their control. This paper intends to give an insight into the current level of use of modern technology in land administration in Nigeria, the problems militating against their global application, as well as highlight some of the advantages of implementing FELIS as a GIS-based programme.

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