

Advancing Land Administration Systems: Namibia's communal land administration system

Malcon Mazambani (Namibia)

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SUMMARY

Context and background

Land Administration is a process of determining, recording, and disseminating information about ownership, use, value, and development of land when implementing land management policies. It also involves the adjudication of land rights, surveying, and the provision of relevant information for supporting land markets. Communal land in Namibia is administered under the Namibia Communal Land Administration System (NCLAS) and guided by the Communal Land Reform Act 5 of 2002. The enactment of the above act gave birth to the Communal Land Registration Project which has achieved some good results through both systematic and sporadic land registration. The NCLAS was created as a system to house all the information pertaining to communal land in Namibia, specifically customary land rights and rights of leasehold. As part of land administration, the system was established to ensure that it performs all the functions of land administration such as the determination, recording and dissemination of land and related information.

Research Problem

Nonetheless, the NCLAS system is facing several challenges pertaining to collection and recording of information under the system. The system has specifically faced challenges in terms of the speediness of collecting data due to use of outdated technologies and methods. Moreover, data storage and management are one area that has also faced some challenges, this is confirmed by the system experiencing server down times, loss of records in some cases as well as limited capacity in maintaining and managing the system. The above are just some of the challenges with the communal land administration system of Namibia.

Goal and Objectives

The study addresses the following questions: What are the challenges facing the land administration system of communal areas in Namibia? Which key areas could be advanced to improve the land administration system of communal areas in Namibia? To answer the above questions, the study examined the importance of advancing the communal land administration system of Namibia.

Methodology

The study was based on a mix of literature review and qualitative method conducted from 2011 to 2021 when one of the authors was engaged in communal land administration in Namibia. During this period, the author gathered some information and conducted interviews with officials involved in the administration of communal land.

Results

The study identified key areas of advancement for the communal land administration system of Namibia. These include utilizing the latest technologies, secure tenure, tenure systems that are bankable, sustainable use of land and associated resources, strengthening systems to reduce and resolve land disputes and conflicts in a timely manner.