NGOs and private sector involved in land registration Indonesia

According to the National Agrarian Reform Program every plot of land in Indonesia must be certified and registered by 2025. However, using the standard land registration methodology, this target will not be reached. Can NGOs and the private sector play a role? Together with Meridia, JKPP and the University of Gadjah Mada, Kadaster examined the options.

Alternative land registration approach
An alternative land registration approach was investigated during the PaLaR project. PaLaR, meaning Participatory Land Registration, was tested in two pilot areas on Java and Sumatra. The assumption was that three out of four main steps in the land registration chain could be executed by NGOs and private sector instead of the Local Land Office themselves: mobilisation of the local communities, collecting documentation (evidence) and collecting data of the boundaries. Doing so, the Local Land Offices only need to focus on the fourth step: quality control of the data and certification of the plot. This saves them a lot of time. Using alternative techniques to capture administrative and spatial data makes the registration process more affordable.

Participatory Land Registration
To verify whether PaLaR can be a solution to accelerate land registration, University of Gadjah Mada and Kadaster compared the method with the standard land registration methodology in Indonesia. The pilot demonstrated that PaLaR is compliant with the land registration system in Indonesia, suits local circumstances and delivers the completeness and legal data quality well. This was the first time that officers of ATR/BPN (Local Land Offices of the National Agrarian Agency) successfully joined forces with NGOs and the private sector in their work to register individual land parcels. The PaLaR pilot indicated a time efficiency that is useful to accelerate land parcel registration and the pilot provided a good showcase for cheaper land registration in rural areas in Indonesia.

| Christelle van den Berg
Fit-For-Purpose capacity building in Mozambique

The Mozambican Land Administration System is still far from complete due to colonial legacy and decades of civil war. Masses of land users are uncertain about their land rights. The government faces a major challenge: capturing 5 million plots of land with corresponding user rights in 5 years. A mega job of registering all those landholders has two main components: the registering itself and the organising of the information. The land registry organisation of Mozambique, DINAT (Direcção Nacional de Terras), wants to catch up in a targeted, fast and affordable way. To cope with the enormous amount of plots, many people must be trained. To do so, Kadaster has designed a Fit-For-Purpose approach, involving local and international partners. This two-year project (2019-2020) aims at capacity building regarding three areas: registering, data management and institutional building.

Upgrading the Land Administration Information System in Rwanda

Since 2004, Kadaster has been involved in the land administration domain in Rwanda. The Rwanda Land Tenure Regularisation Project started in 2009; in 2011 the Land Administration Information System (LAIS) was launched. Since 2011, Kadaster has been consulting the Rwanda Land Management and Use Authority (RLMUA) in using the information system that facilitates land administration and registration procedures. During these years the LAIS system has undergone several upgrades. It was originally built to support the collection of land administration data. Now, LAIS version 4.0 is ready to support the updating and maintenance of the data. Kadaster has worked in close cooperation with Dutch and local partners including ESRI Rwanda. RLMUA staff has been trained in taking over the maintenance of the system and allocating necessary ESRI support. Having done so, RLMUA is able to keep both the system and RLMUA IT facilities sustainable.

Slavery register Surinam published

Slavery is a black page in human history. And so it is very important to create awareness among contemporary people. Moreover, those whose ancestors were enslaved deserve the opportunity to get access to their family history. Researchers from Radboud University (The Netherlands) and Anton de Krom University (Suriname) together with 1500 volunteers have digitised the 43 volumes of the slavery register 1830–1865 in Surinam, as kept in the Surinam National Archive. Data of almost all individuals enslaved can be found in this register, for instance: name, sex, birth date, mother’s name, plantation name and owner. The Surinam cadastral agency MI-GLIS and Kadaster have added a geo component to this digitised archive. As a consequence, the existing plantation map was digitised, so the location of each plantation can easily be found. Statistics like the amount of slaves that managed to escape are also visible.
Among the most difficult land conflicts are those between indigenous communities and third parties such as farmers or companies. The number of people with customary rights is relatively small and diminishing worldwide. Still, the areas covered by customary rights are vast, for instance, nearly 30% of Colombia’s territory. These areas are often under pressure from the rising global demand for natural resources. As a result: conflict and debate rise about land rights. Together with the Colombian Government, Kadaster applied Fit-for-Purpose (FFP) land administration to the disputed area between the indigenous reserve Santa Teresita del Tuparro and its neighbouring colonist farms. After socialisation meetings with the people involved, the land users started collecting field data. The collected field data showed considerable overlapping land claims. Nevertheless, the discussion during the public inspection about the occurrence of those different mapping realities was harmonious. This pilot may serve as a showcase for the multitude of diffuse and disputed boundaries between indigenous reserves and colonist farm land in Colombia and elsewhere.

| Piet Spijkers (local project leader in Colombia) |

| Marije Louwsma |

| Kees de Zeeuw, Director Kadaster International |

I write this column the day after I had a meeting of the Dutch Commission on Geodesy. Three people announced that it was their last meeting, because of retirement. And I didn’t see it coming. At my own organisation Dorine Burmanje has left us, after being our chair of the Executive Board and my direct boss for 15 years. And within my own team, Kholoud Saad found a wonderful new job opportunity in her hometown Cairo and didn’t continue her Dutch adventure because of that. With all these people leaving me, two conclusions are possible: a) the world changes and life goes on b) I am getting old.

But, there is no reason to feel lonely and left behind. Because there are new kids on the block. Everywhere. More and more I see announcements of new projects, businesses, programmes and professionals that I don’t know of or I didn’t know about. Young people, people with different professional backgrounds and people with new or unexpected ideas or business models, stepping into the arena of land administration and geo-information management. It keeps our field of work exciting and unpredictable. Sure, sometimes there is the uncomfortable feeling of losing grip, losing control, disapproving with approaches and developments. Now, if I’d start thinking “been there, done that and it doesn’t work”, I’d say I have arrived at conclusion b). But, I don’t want to be there. Yet. This means I am stepping into a phase of my career where I have to combine my experience in this field of work with wonderment, curiosity, trust and acceptance. This might be defined as the step from expertise to wisdom. Probably the most difficult one in your life: instead of trying to say the right thing, starting to ask the right thing. Not sure if I will get there, but as the Beatles already sang, hopefully “I get by with a little help of my friends”.

| Kees de Zeeuw, Director Kadaster International |

| Piet Spijkers (local project leader in Colombia) |

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EDITORIAL

Old and wise

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Unmanned Aerial Vehicles in Nepal’s Land Sector

Nepal has made recent and welcoming strides in the area of land policy and related legislation in recent years. The new Fit-For-Purpose Land Administration policies and government initiatives embrace new ways of data collection for land administration purposes. Using Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) is an emerging option. In the land administration domain, UAVs have already been piloted and demonstrated in a range of OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) member countries, as well as countries across eastern and southern Africa. The tool has particular strength in areas with heavily undulating terrain, dynamic geological contexts (e.g. disaster prone), where high-resolution and up-to-date data are needed. Nepal has a quickly emerging UAV sector with applications in the health domain already evident. A multi-stakeholder dialogue and workshop series conducted by Kadaster revealed Nepal is well placed in terms of laws, capacity, and collaboration for supporting the country-wide application of UAVs in the land sector.

| Rohan Bennett / Eva-Maria Unger

East African Land Administration Network

EALAN is the East African Land Administration Network – a platform for academic and knowledge exchange. Member universities with land administration studies are from Tanzania, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Uganda, Kenya, DR Congo, Burundi and South Sudan. The network’s ambition is to create harmonised (or similar) land administration programmes. The network organises training and performs research on land administration and land governance for conflict resolution and regional stability. During the past years the network was financially supported by the Dutch donor Nuffic. Kadaster made several hands-on contributions. Achievements during the Nuffic period include the establishment of a knowledge network, development of curricula for land administration programmes in South Sudan, Burundi and DR of Congo, updating curricula of member universities, implementation of an inter-university collaboration plan and publications of books. During the coming years the network will be supported by the German donor GIZ.

| Chrit Lemmen

Changes in the Board of Kadaster

On 1 October 2019, Dorine Burmanje retired from her position as chair of Kadaster’s Executive Board. Her role as chair is taken over by Frank Tierolff, who has been board member since 2016. The new appointed board co-member is Mrs Marjolein Jansen. She was vice-chair in the board of VU Amsterdam University. Before that she had several other high management positions in the Dutch public sector.

Team changes

Kholoud Saad, who was our regional manager for the Arabic region, has left the Kadaster International team. She embraced a great opportunity to become the CEO of Esri NeA (Distributor) at Esri North East Africa. In her new role she will stay involved in land administration matters.

Hendrik Westerbeek retired last October after 45 years of work at Kadaster. Over the last 30 years he was involved in many international projects, mainly in Europe but also in Surinam and Africa. The subjects ranged from basic land administration to institutional and financial frameworks and strategy.