

## On the ground in Kosovo and Montenegro

Except for the kick-off in February 2020, we have had no physical meetings in the SPATIAL II project due to COVID-19. However, with travel restrictions eased, we could visit Kosovo and Montenegro, two key project beneficiaries, in October. This was timely, since both the Kosovo Cadastral Agency (KCA) and the newly formed Cadastre and State Property Administration (CSPA) of Montenegro recently appointed new directors.

At the KCA, we met with the new director, Afërdita Taçi, and the representative of the World Bank Muzafer Qaka. We reviewed our support on the specifications for a new geoportal and also discussed upcoming support topics and plans for 2022.



In Montenegro, we had a meeting with the new director Koča Djurišić to discuss the structure of the new organisation, the current challenges and support topics for CSPA for the coming year.

| Haico van der Vegt and Dorus Kruse

## UN-GGIM 10-year event, collaboration continues

In August, the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) convened its 11th session in a virtual format. The event marked a decade of global cooperation of unlocking the value of geospatial information through UN-adopted frameworks, norms and guides. These frameworks, such as the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF) and the Framework for Effective Land Administration (FELA), enable Member States to harness societal, environmental and economic benefits with geospatial information and knowledge.

Kadaster continues to support the United Nations' agenda on global geospatial information management by providing leadership, expertise and staff. Kadaster and the UN-GGIM secretariat have a virtual secondment arrangement where a Kadaster staff member supports UN-GGIM's work programme. A contribution highly valued by UN-GGIM.

| Eva-Maria Unger

## Small Talk

### Continued support to FIG

Following the success of the FIG2021 e-Working Week, hosted from Amsterdam, the team at Kadaster gladly continues its FIG support. Marije Louwsma will continue as chair of Commission 8 into 2022, rounding out her term at the end of 2023. Rohan Bennett was made chair-elect for Commission 7 at the e-Working Week. He will commence in 2023 as chair for the period 2023-26. The team is looking forward to support the 23rd FIG hybrid congress in Warsaw in 2022:

FIG2022



### MOOC next steps

After successfully completing the pilot phase of an open online tutorial series on Fit-for-Purpose Land Administration (FFP-LA), Kadaster is now exploring the further development of this tutorial into a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC), together with the Youth Initiative for Land in Africa (YILAA) and the University of Twente – faculty of ITC. The goal is to exchange knowledge and expertise on how to build a MOOC on FFP-LA, combined with the specific training needs of young land professionals in Africa.

### Books on Fit-For-Purpose Land Administration

As mentioned in the previous Abroad, an open-access publication on Fit-For-Purpose Land Administration is available. These articles were now compiled into a book: "Fit-For-Purpose Land Administration - Providing Secure Land Rights at Scale". Volume one deals with conceptual innovations, and volume two with country implementations. Editors are the developers of the methodology: Stig Enemark, Robin McLaren and Chrit Lemmen. When compiling the book, existing insights were combined with innovations on Fit-for-Purpose Land Administration.

open-access  
publication



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## Tailormade land administration in Chad: “Respecting tradition and culture”

In September, Kadaster started a collaboration\* with four ministries involved in land administration and education in Chad. The aim of the collaboration is to make (formal) land rights more accessible for all. Co-creating a strategy for a future system will support reducing cost, time, and the complexity of land registration and maintenance processes.

Part of the project team is Mahamat Abdoulaye Malloum. He is a land governance expert, sociologist, historian, homegrown Chadian, and PhD student at the University of Maroua in Cameroon. Malloum: “This collaboration is about sharing experiences. The Netherlands is a small country with a dense population. Chad is a large country with a relatively low population density but considerably more land conflicts. We can learn a lot from each other.”

### Era of transition

Malloum: “Chad has entered an era of transition: we are critically reflecting on the best way to manage our country. Land conflicts cause a lot of problems in Chad. Every month, we mourn a serious number of deaths. The biggest challenge at this moment is access to land for all people. Despite the vast size of the country, land for agricultural and pastoral activities or housing is rare. Land rights for women and young people are poor. As a result, they have no collateral to get a loan from a bank to start their own (agricultural) business.”

### Act together

“For me, the biggest gain of working with Kadaster is to learn more about the Fit-For-Purpose Land Administration approach. This approach will help us develop a system that is tailor-made for



Chad. By respecting tradition and culture, we can improve our land administration. I hope that all stakeholders in land management can improve their skills to control land conflicts much better. We must do this together, as it is truly a matter of life and death.”

\* This collaboration is part of the LAND-at-scale programme of the Netherlands' Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

| Christelle van den Berg and Janine Bender



Editorial

## I believe this is mine

The world wide web has been part of my life for thirty years now. In the first years, the beeping noises of a dial-up modem (piep... pup... prrrr) were part of the experience. The fun factor was to look up things I didn't know. Facts and figures under the click of my mouse. Much has happened since: 24/7 news feeds, video streaming and online shopping. Nostalgic modem sounds have been replaced by all kinds of other beeps and buzzes coming from my pocket.

But, the Internet confuses me more and more. It is no longer about looking up things you want to know; it is also about confirming the things that you want to believe, or perhaps even worse, that others want you to believe. 'Fake news' is terminology we all know today, and 'deep fake' is something we should know in the coming years. I was struck by the fact that the online community around the flat-earth theory is growing rapidly. Call me naïve, but I thought, by now, we all know the world is a squashed globe.

Now let's talk about facts, figures, maps, registers, databases. That's our world and with ongoing digitalisation, the Internet is an essential channel for our services. After developments in artificial intelligence and block chain technology, digital twin is now the new buzzword. Even land administrators talk about digital twins today, as became apparent during the FIG2021 e-Working Week. I think inevitably, soon your parcel, house and land will have an avatar in an online environment in which cadastre organisations will play a role. Really, there is no way we can allow that the digital twin of people's property replaces the property they want to believe is theirs in the online environment. Our data should be the reference to what we know, not to what we believe. I don't want to put all the weight on your shoulders, but let's stay alert! The moment someone says "I believe this is mine", we know if that is actually true.

| Kees de Zeeuw

## 3D cadastre for Indonesia

The project 'Improving modern land registration in Indonesia' continues at pace. Across November 2021, Kadaster and the Ministry of Agrarian and Spatial Planning/National Land Agency (ATR-BPN) conducted a webinar series on 3D cadastres. The focus was on knowledge sharing and capacity development. Specific topics were: 3D legal and policy issues, 3D data capture methodologies, and 3D data modelling aspects. So far, over 250 participants joined the first webinar. Guest speakers included Peter Van Oosterom (TU-Delft), Mila Koeva (ITC University of Twente), and Magdalena Grus (Kadaster innovation team).



The focus of the webinars is in line with the project's aims: digital transformation and delivery of e-services. Key is fostering interaction with government agencies, citizens, and other data custodians - those linked to spatial planning, BIM, and even the marine environment. Whilst no country currently maintains a truly fully 3D cadastre, Indonesia is seeking to lead global developments, following its One Map initiative to map all 126M land parcels by 2025.

| Rohan Bennett, Eva-Maria Unger and Haico van der Vegt

## Public inspection of thousands of parcels in Benin

The project for the modernisation of the Benin land administration (PMAF) reached a milestone. In October, land administration data of 12 rural villages were published for a 30-day period of inspection by the right holders. Most of the landholders visited, and all together made few objections. Most remarks were requests for clarification by the village committees or the data collection experts.

This is the tangible result of 1) a large field data collection process and 2) the development of an IT system based on the Land Administration Domain Model (LADM). Realised by local companies with the support of Dutch and Beninese experts. Soon, the parcels and their right holders will be registered in Benin's national cadastre. This is only the beginning. The PMAF project will realise the registration of 200.000 parcels, while the approach and the technical tools can eventually register all estimated 7 million parcels in Benin.

| Ernst Peter Oosterbroek



8 min documentary



## Digital standardisation for Armenia



Supporting the ongoing 'Digitisation of cadastral archives in Armenia' project, the Cadastre Committee (CC) of Armenia and Kadaster are planning a series of webinars. These will focus on standardisation of practices around digital archive creation and management.

The webinars will involve 20 staff from CC land administration offices and provide upskilling on ISO standards around digital archiving and maintenance. This includes securing the housing and accessibility of the existing physical and future digital archives. Aspects relating to legal reform and transformation will also be part of the webinar. The Dutch embassy in Yerevan, the capital of Armenia, supports the planning of the webinar series. We hope missions between Armenia and the Netherlands could begin as early as January 2022, depending on COVID-19 restrictions. There are plans for a study tour to the Netherlands of senior CC management staff in 2022.

| Rohan Bennett and Vincent Verheij

## Towards land administration sustainability in Rwanda

In October, Kadaster experts visited Rwanda as part of the ongoing multi-country LAND-at-scale initiative of the Dutch Enterprise Association (RVO). Together with the International Development Law Organization (IDLO), Kadaster contributes to the sustainability of land administration systems in Rwanda. We do this by enhancing and protecting essential procedures, systems and knowledge about Rwandan land administration and land use. The goal? A sustainable land administration system which registers all land transactions. Nowadays, not all land transactions in Rwanda are registered formally, despite completing a full digital registration of all parcels almost a decade ago.



The project strategy comprises 4 components:

- Strengthening the land administration business and systems;
- Developing land use plans in rural areas;
- Strengthening decision-making processes regarding land disputes; and
- Building academic capacity to support land administration in Rwanda.

The implementation of the project will take three years, ending in 2025.

| Martien Tomberg



## Kadaster and the Caribbean

Since January 1, 2021, the board of Kadaster is responsible for the cadastre and registry on three islands in the Caribbean: Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba. These islands are special municipalities within the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

The aim of this integration is to further modernise and improve the quality of the cadastral services. One improvement is the gradual change in tariff structure of our services in the Caribbean: from property value based tariffs to service based tariffs. This means that, in the long run, compensation will not depend on the purchase or mortgage sum or the land value, but on the amount of time Kadaster spends on delivering a service.

On Sint Eustatius, a new team has started, and was introduced to Government Commissioner Alida Francis and Deputy Government Commissioner Claudia Toet. Frank Tierolff, chair of the Board of Kadaster: "We will continue to improve our services for all residents of St. Eustatius and this new team is an essential factor in this ambition."

| Mathilde Molendijk

Interview with Alida Francis



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