

# Review of the Land and Poverty Conference 2016



The theme of the Land and Poverty Conference 2016, which was held in Washington DC, USA, from 14-18 March 2016, was 'Scaling up Responsible Land Governance'. A few highlights linked to this theme are given here.

The guiding principles for countrywide implementation of the fit-for-purpose (FFP) approach in land administration were presented and were well received. This approach provides new and innovative solutions to build affordable, pro-poor, scalable and sustainable systems in order to identify the way all land is occupied and used. It is a countrywide solution encompassing all tenure types. It creates integrated and scalable land administration solutions. It is highly participatory. It can be implemented quickly and provides security of tenure for all. Most importantly, the FFP approach can start very quickly using a low-risk entry point that requires minimal preparatory work. The concept is based on a joint FIG and World Bank publication from 2014.

During the Land and Poverty Conference 2016, the UN-GGIM group of experts on land administration and management was launched. There will be a high-level expert



group meeting at the end of April 2016 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, where integration of land administration in the Global Spatial Data Infrastructure will be the key theme. A work plan will be developed for this purpose.

An event on 'Architecture and Services for Imagery-based Land Administration Registration' took place, co-organised by the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC), World Bank, the Global Land Tool Network, FIG and Kadaster International. One of the principles of the FFP approach is the use of imagery for boundary identification. During this event, the need for infrastructure for provision of the imagery was discussed in order to support the collection of evidence from the field. Services

for data access, transport and distribution are needed in this context. Requirements and the options for business models were also discussed. There are challenges in relation to the inclusion of spatial units for land administration linked with legal/administrative data on land use rights and rights holders. OGC is developing a draft charter for the establishment of an 'OGC Land Administration Domain Working Group'. Final decisions on the establishment and the organisation of the group are expected in June 2016. ◀

**More information**  
[www.fig.net](http://www.fig.net)

## Spotlight on a GSDI Member: RCMRD Building Web-mapping capabilities



To improve web-mapping capabilities in its member states, the Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD) has been hosting training workshops, most recently in Botswana, South Africa, Namibia, and Kenya. The interactive five-day training sessions, which include presentations, practical exercises and discussions, have been designed to introduce the attendees to basic theoretical and practical concepts of web mapping and teach them how to deliver and share geographic information online. The focus has been on web-mapping technology, including its architecture, application and tools.

Participants have typically been GIS professionals, cartographers and other technical personnel with a background in computer applications and the internet.

By the end of the workshops, the participants have been able to share GIS maps, data and workflows through the creation, building, publishing and sharing of GIS services accessible from desktop computers, web browsers and mobile devices. This training is an important contribution by RCMRD to enhancing the use of geographic information by government working groups, decision-makers and the general public. The training

also strengthens the exchange of knowledge between the participants and RCMRD staff, both for the duration of the training and beyond.

RCMRD is a non-profit inter-governmental organisation and currently has 20 contracting member states in the Eastern and Southern Africa regions: Botswana, Burundi, Comoros, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somali, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Since its establishment in 1975, RCMRD has been instrumental in capacity building for ▶