

# What are Tools

An extract from Session Two  
ATF Mombasaa 2010:  
with explanatory notes (1-5)

## Overview

- Tools defined
- What do they look like?
- How are they structured?
- Factors affecting tools
- Why we indicate a priority?

## Defined

*Any thing that enables you to meet the immediate and future needs*

They are:

- Practical and pragmatic
- Enable facilitation of an objective
- Move toward achievement
- They are not lessons

## Note 1

- A tool is not just something that you hold in your hand (such as a hammer) to do a specific practical job.
- For the carpenter the tool may be a hammer and for the surveyor it may be a measuring tape, a total station or a GIS software programme. A SWOT analysis is a tool and so is a benchmarking concept or a policy for quality assurance, and also a policy in terms of a regional or community land use plan.

## What Do they look like?

- Historically- centuries old it was print, then computers then IT, then satellite GPS
- Business: spreadsheet, SWOT analysis, Gantt charts, financial management, quality assurance, benchmarking, risk management
- Technical: check list, measuring tape, implementing policy (e.g land use plans)

## Information tools

...sometimes its understanding knowledge

- Bests practice/ guidance
- Policy briefing notes
- Workshops: participatory, story telling
- Professional handbook/ notes
- Internet portals
- Contact and networking

## Note 2

- Information tools may relate to the internet, text books, best practice or policy guidelines, handbooks, or just professional networking.
- In terms of FIG the tools relate to conferences, commission activities, task forces, and publications providing policy statements, guidelines, and agenda for action in relevant or topical areas of the global surveying community.

## FIG Tools



available online – FIG.net



- Publications
- Workshops
- Capacity building
- Agenda for Action

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## Note 3

- A tool in the wider context of social/economic/environmental development could be defined as “anything that enables you to meet the immediate and future needs of your subject/object”. So with respect to achievements a tool is “a resource for understanding how to carry out and perform actions” to meet your goals.

## Knowledge transfer

Sustainability & Resilient:

Developed economies:

- Service market based economies are large scale, but

Developing economies:

- Grapple simultaneously with extreme poverty, political disenfranchisement and expanding informal settlements

## Note 4

- The UN-HABITAT Global Land Tool Network has adopted the definition above. In this regard, tools should be practical and pragmatic by enabling facilitation for moving forward toward achievement at scale.

## International Factors

- MDGs
- Change of focus: from development/ market approach to Poverty alleviation
- Rapid change: Traditional tools- e.g. planning and land titling cannot deliver quick enough
- GLT: Cross cutting issues in tool development
- Human Rights: based approach increasing influence

## You as Agents of Change

Consider your Input:

- Consider your impact
- Consider the practicalities
- Consider your country capacity

..to explain

## Note 5

- Tools are a means for implementation – a means for change. By acting as agents of change it is important to consider the possible impact through advocacy and community liaison; consider the practicalities e.g. in relation to the technologies available; and consider the capacity within your member organisation or country and the possible access to community stakeholders.

## Consider your impact

Focus:

- Poverty alleviation?
- Support social and sustainable development?
- Advocacy and community liaison?
- Policy?
- Technical Know how

## Consider the Practicalities

Choices may be restricted:

- Momentum of systems?
- Technological equipment (Computers?)
- Difficulty is to choose to affres legislative reform
- Fascination by the latest technology?



## Consider Capacity

The needs and development capacity of country land professional

- How many of you in your country?
- Your Member Association- dedicated staff?
- Ability to train/ recruit foot soldiers?
- Access to the community stakeholders?