

Developing a Methodology for Capacity Development Assessment to Implement Land Policy

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SUMMARY

In the context of a GLTN research project this article provides the results on the development of a holistic tool to assess capacity development needs for land policy implementation. The development built on 3 phases. In March 2014 the project activities had resulted in a draft literature review document on the different conceptualizations on “capacity development” and “capacity development assessments” and addressed that the characteristics of the land sector are unique as compared to other sectors. The literature review revealed three main categories of views on capacity development, labelled as rationalist, land administration toolbox based and developmentalist. Each of these have had different implications for the type of assessment: the first view assesses capacity of a sector as the sum of capacities at different scales and different types of capacities (hard and soft); the second on the basis on outcomes generated by the system of land administration in view of the separate aspects of the land administration toolbox; the third view addresses assesses capacity through assessing the emergent factors which create problems in land matters. Two consultation activities were executed to verify with experienced stakeholders which components needed to be included in a specific capacity development assessment tool for land policy; one in Kenya (April 2014) and one in Mozambique (May 2014). Both experiences were synthesized, which derived a number of recommendations on how to revise and reshape the methodology, and also derived a set of guidelines which could be used by assessors. The redesigned methodology is based on the notion that capacity development may be an intangible concept, yet that assessment of capacity development is possible by carefully combining the 3 types of approaches associated with the 3 different views whilst taking into account the specific nature and characteristics of the land domain. It contains 4 subsequent components: 1. Identify national concourse of land issues at stake, and frame concerns, goals, resources (is assessment needed and why) 2. Scoping of functional assessment and mobilize resources. 3. Conducting the assessment and interpreting results. 4. Presenting , disseminating and acting upon results. These components are detailed with specific guidelines for data collection and interpretation. The entire package was validated in Uganda in November 2014. This article presents the results of this validation process and concludes with the implications for the tool.