

# Land Inventory in Botswana: Processes and Lessons



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# Land Inventory in Botswana: Processes and Lessons



# Foreword

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Land is a scarce resource involving a wide range of rights and responsibilities. When poorly managed, it can become very contentious often leading to disputes, conflict, degradation and other problems, all of them drivers of slum development and poverty in urban areas.

One of the best remedies is for countries to map out their land portfolio so as to get a better understanding of the situation. This combined with new communications and information tools enables public authorities to improve land management and administration.

Indeed, equitable land management is an extremely complex problem around the world, and developing countries face immense challenges in land management and administration. Subject to countless legal, administrative, cultural and religious practices, it is something that has to be addressed by taking a number of factors into account simultaneously.

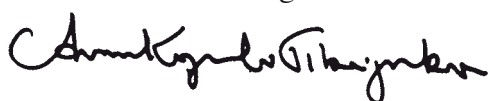
These include land policy, land tenure (including tenancy), land use planning, land information, gender issues, valuation, state land and private land, governance and land taxation.

I am delighted that the report here on the Botswana Tribal Land Information and Management Systems shows us an exemplary practice using modern digital technology. It teaches us too that the decentralization of land administration can bring benefits for the poor. In fact, the system in place pays particular attention to local land boards in the development of strategic ideas in pro-poor land management and administration.

At UN-Habitat, we recognize that successful land policy formulation and implementation depend on a complete and up-to-date inventory of land holdings. These inform land policy choices and implementation priorities. A well functioning land inventory is an integral element of; land administration, land development, urban planning, urban management, land use planning, land transactions and natural resources management.

This publication documents challenges, opportunities, processes and lessons learned for implementing a successful land inventory.

I have every confidence that the Botswana land story told here will be of considerable use as our World Urban Campaign for better, smarter and more sustainable cities gathers.



Anna Tibaijuka  
Executive Director  
UN-HABITAT





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## Abbreviations

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BHC	Botswana Housing Corporation
BLIS	Botswana Land Information System
CIS	Cadastral Information System
DC	Data Collector
DGS	Department of Geological Surveys
DoL	Department of Lands
DTRP	Department of Town and Regional Planning
DSM	Department of Surveys & Mapping
ICT	Information and Communication Technologies
IT	Information Technology
IS	Information System
GIS	Geographic Information System
GPS	Global Positioning System
LAITSU	Local Authorities Information Technology Support Unit
LB	Land Board
LDC	Least Developed Countries
LIM	Land Information Management
LINSYS	Land Inventory System
LIS	Land Information System
LMRG	Land Management Reference Group
LRIS	Land Registration and Information Service
MOA	Ministry of Agriculture
MLB	Main Land Board
MLH	Ministry of Lands and Housing
ODBC	Open Database Connectivity

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