

Welcome and Introduction

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October 2011

What is Land Tenure and Property Rights (LTPR)?

- LTPR is the institutional (political, economic, social, and legal) structure that determines how people relate to land
- LTPR is a set of rules invented by societies to regulate behavior
 - Customary/informal vs. legal/formal
- LTPR systems determine who can use what resources for how long, and under what conditions
- Includes not only land but other resources (trees, minerals, water resources)

Why is LTPR important?

- LTPR issues can be either a constraint or an opportunity
- **Constraint:**
 - Problems with LTPR systems interfere with other development objectives
- **Opportunity:**
 - Secure property rights are fundamental to economic development
 - Securing property rights can have significant economic and social impacts

Why are LTPR issues difficult?

- In areas of the world where poverty is concentrated, land is the single most important productive asset
- But land is also central to cultural identity
- Weak governments + customary systems/other sources of claims + competing interests

The LTPR Unit at USAID

- Staff has increased from 1 to 2 (2009) to 4-5 (2011)
 - Gregory Myers: LTPR unit lead
 - Timothy Fella: Land Tenure and Conflict Specialist
 - Karol Boudreaux: Africa Land Tenure Specialist
 - Ben Linkow: Land Tenure Economist
 - Land Tenure and Climate Change Specialist late '11

What does the land tenure unit do?

- Programming:
 - 30 programs in 20 countries with a cumulative budget of \$200 million over past 3 years
- Technical assistance to missions and operating units:
 - Supporting 20 missions
 - 117 TDY days/staff member
- Supporting research:
 - Increased emphasis on project impact evaluations/ LERN award
 - GCC: Carbon rights and benefit sharing
- Knowledge Management:
 - 62 country profiles, 13 issue briefs, 4 annual trainings
 - Land tenure and property rights web portal