



**25th SESSION OF THE
GOVERNING COUNCIL**
17 - 23 APRIL 2015 ♦ NAIROBI

Tuesday, 21 April 2015 – Venue: Conference Room 10

Time: 1:00 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.

Nairobi, Kenya

SIDE EVENT

Social Tenure Domain Model (STDM) Piloting in Kenya

**Pamoja Trust Kenya, Technical University of Kenya
and
UN-Habitat Global Land Tool Network**

Background

Pamoja Trust (PT) was tasked to pilot the use of Social Tenure Domain Model (STDM) in Kenya in collaboration with UN HABITAT/GLTN. In implementing the pilot project, PT also collaborated with the Technical University of Kenya (TU-K).

STDM emerged to be an adequate land information management tool to capture both enumeration and mapping data for informal settlements which have not been captured under formal cadastres. It has the capability to record the informality and complexity of the various tenure situations exhibited in the many informal settlements in Kenyan towns/cities. STDM bridges the gap between communities and land professionals. It addresses slum questions with pragmatic and realistic solutions – in a participatory and sustainable manner.

The information generated by the communities from the two pilot sites has contributed to various Government interventions including tenure regularization, relocation and planning. The communities have used the information to negotiate with land sector stakeholders.

STDM has helped the residents to assert the existence of their settlements and to move ahead towards recognition and security of tenure which have been challenging for most Kenyan informal settlements. Against the Governments plans for enhancement of tenure security in the pilot sites, the project has well demonstrated that land rights are a continuum.

Purpose

The pilot project had two main objectives:

The first objective of the pilot exercise was the establishment of STDMS viability for capturing tenure situations of Kenyan informal settlements and to customize the tool for this purpose.

The second objective included increased awareness and comprehension of STDMS among land sector stakeholders.

The project was to be conducted in close collaboration with the two target communities. They were to receive trainings on STDMS so that they were able to conduct data updates on their own and to showcase the usage of STDMS to other stakeholders. Apart from proving STDMS capability of capturing tenure situations in informal settlements, the pilot project was also to demonstrate the applicability of STDMS for formal settlements.

The project brought on board academia, relevant government institutions and various professional land bodies who critiqued the tool and gave input for its improvement. This increased the general acceptance of the tool which was important because although there were many positive and welcoming reactions on the tool, there were also critical perceptions, e.g. that STDMS could encourage the expansion of informal settlements or illegal land grabbing and that the Kenyan land law would not provide a legal basis for the use of STDMS.