

# Institutional Aspects of Implementing Inclusive Land Information Systems in Reference to Social Tenure Domain Model (STDM)

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## Objective



- **To identify and address non-technical (aka institutional issues)**
  - Developing/implementing LIMS isn't only about computerization!
  - Even more so in developing and poor communities.
  - Concerns that equally demand attention
    - Policy and legal
    - Organizational
    - Human capacity building (formal and non-formal training)
  - Getting the non-technical (institutional) issues right is far more complex than the bits and bytes dimensions.



## Broader conception of the term institution...

- Institutional economics: the humanly devised constraints that structure human interactions. They are made up of
  - formal constraints (rules, laws, constitutions),
  - informal constraints (norms of behavior, conventions and self-imposed codes of conduct) and
  - their enforcement characteristics.
- Management: organizations (people, facilities, systems and processes)
- The above two are traditional areas of capacity development
  - knowledge, skills, and attitude of individuals
  - quality of organizations and institutions
  - enabling environment



## STDM Overview: what is STDM?

- A multi-partner (GLTN, UN-HABITAT, ITC, FIG, WB) land information management software development initiative to support pro-poor land administration in an integrated framework.
- Integrated: the ultimate goal is to provide seamless land information management system for needs in informal, customary and formal land administrations.

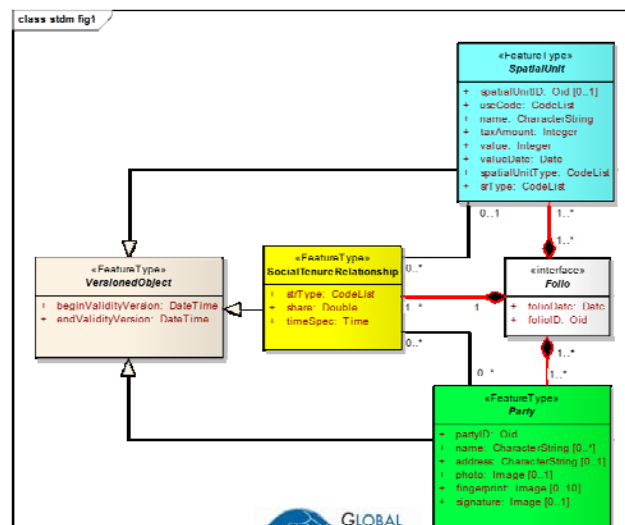


## Why STDM?

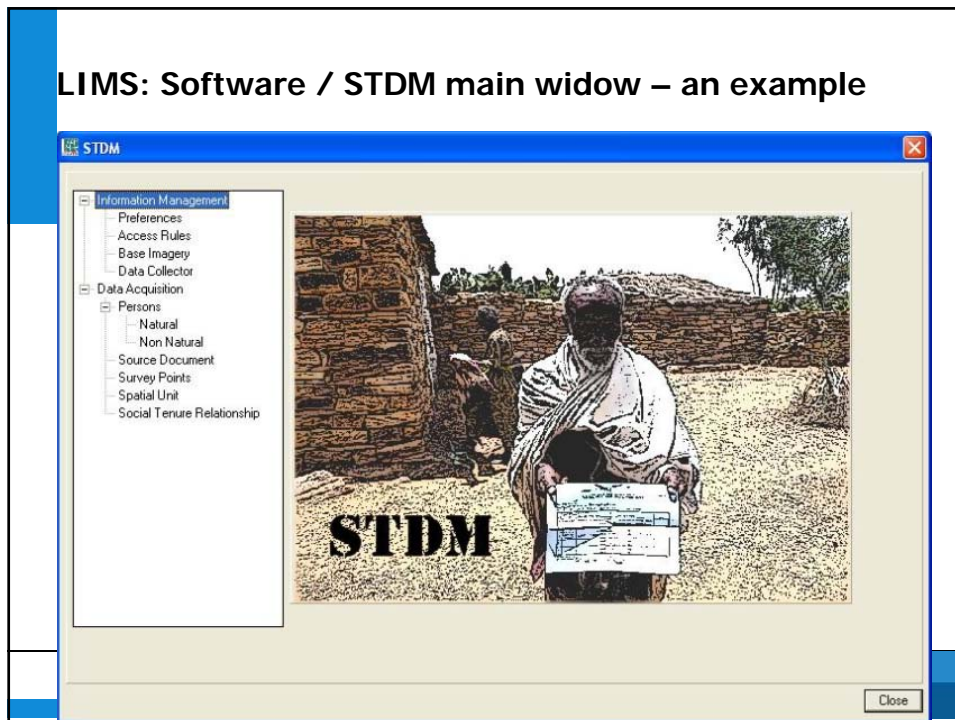
The need to provide pro-poor land tools

- Proprietary LIMS solutions and conventional surveying hasn't served the poor in informal, customary, small holder agric., etc areas
  - parcels are 'untidy'
  - land rights are complex and 'messy' with high incidence of overlapping claims and informal tenures
  - Right holders are many
- Tools that accommodate social tenures/spatial and non-spatial realities of the poor are needed!
- To get around prohibitive costs
  - STDM is being developed with public resources by non-profit entities and based on open source methodology (no acquisition costs, no license fees, no upgrade fees, etc)

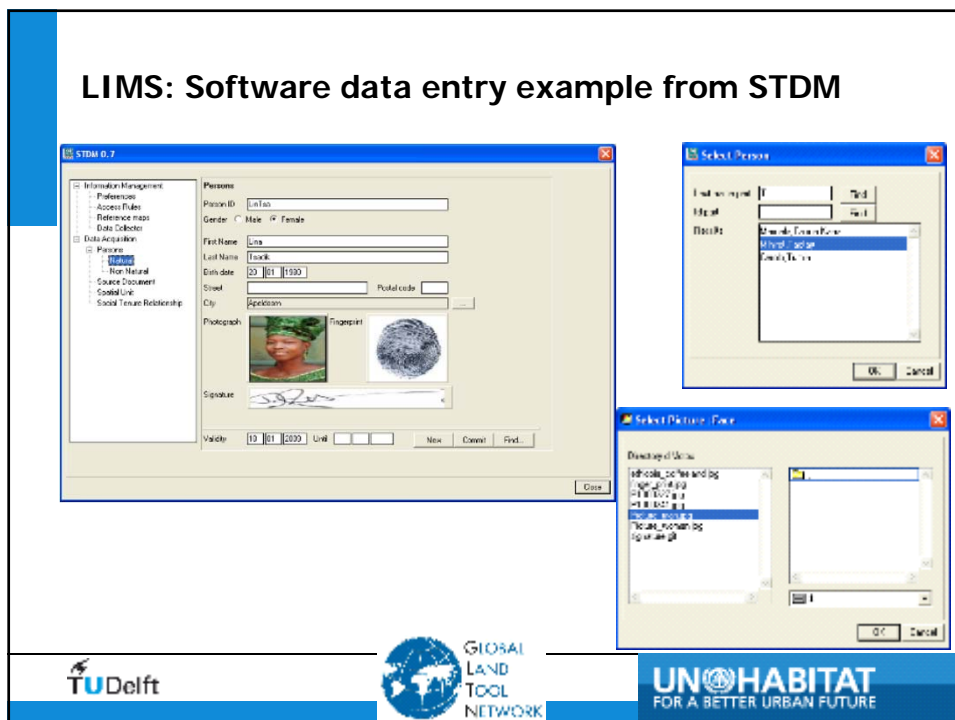
LIMS typically computerizes LA functions and processes: data modeling in STDM



## LIMS: Software / STDM main widow – an example



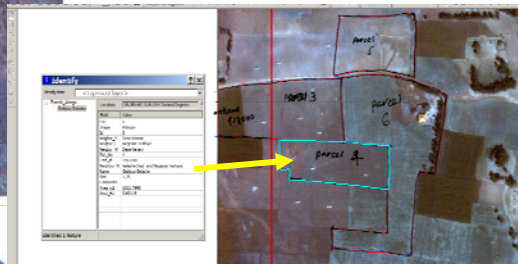
## LIMS: Software data entry example from STDM



**The I in LIMS: information fit for purpose, scalable, gendered, and affordable!**

**HRSI**

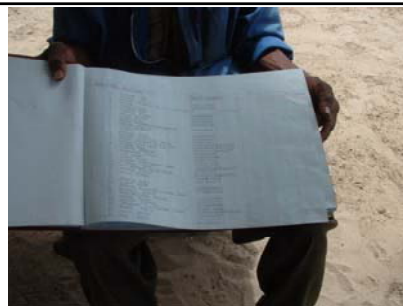
- Low cost; digital data
- Well suited to participatory methods
- Useful where land values don't justify costly precision terrestrial surveying



Parcel ID	Area (m²)	Perimeter (m)	Shape	Color	Notes
Parcel 1	1200	150	Rectangular	Red	
Parcel 3	800	100	Rectangular	Blue	
Parcel 6	1500	180	Rectangular	Green	
Parcel A	2000	220	Rectangular	Cyan	



**Information: enumeration**



- 'Count me in...'
- Another low cost information to begin to improve access to land and tenure security
  - detailed information strengthens position during negotiations, political debates, even in courts (if evidentiary rules are flexible)
  - will influence decisions (not always 'win')
  - trustworthiness through:
    - legal backing (missing)
    - expert involvement (needs to grow)
    - experience of quality

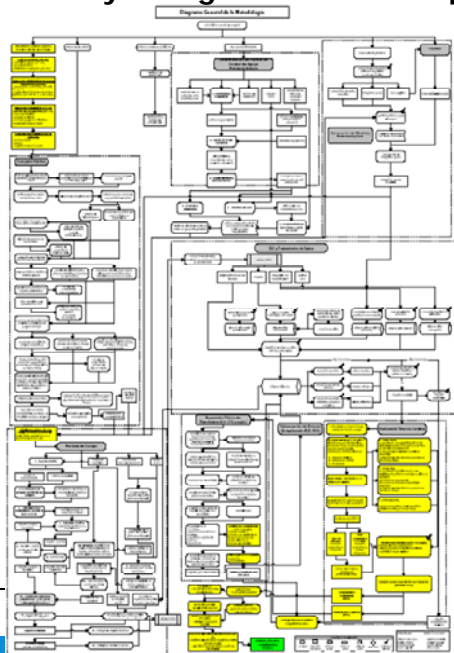


## Issues in implementing inclusive LIMS

- Enabling environment at macro level
  - political stability, framework for transparent and accountable land governance;
  - acceptance of broader social tenure (not only conventional rights) at higher political level; anchored in major policy/ legal documents
- Knowledge, skills, and mindsets
  - training of change agents; ToT
  - attracting and retaining trained people
- Enabling Institutions (formal rules of the game and informal norms)
  - Ghana: 6 agencies in 3 ministries; 200 different land laws



## Quality of organizations: complex process



e.g. this is an actual process map!



## LIMS challenges in developing countries

- Resources (especially after the departure of donors)
- Difficulties to sustain isolated initiatives (land agencies) vis-à-vis government-wide reform
- Inability to reuse data / no data sharing / lack of comprehensive framework (e.g. SDI)
- Quick apathy towards paper records (not using these back-ups)
- Weak data maintenance due to
  - complex, slow, expensive procedures discouraging updating
  - lack of reporting culture in many countries
- Power interruption, virus, low internet bandwidth/no internet connection challenge the added value of computerization



## Conclusion

- Sensitization of change agents and building partnerships among land administrators, donors, private sector, advocacy groups, traditional authorities
  - Land agencies (registry, survey, planning, ... etc)
  - Non-state actors – civil society and private practitioners (lawyers/notaries, surveyors, planners, valuers)
- Areas of awareness creation
  - pro-poor, scalable, affordable, gendered solutions
  - different approaches for different contexts vis-à-vis one-size-fits-all type of approach
  - 'coverage over accuracy' ; coverage that enhances tenure security.
  - simple and incremental solutions (which may be upgraded in the future)



## Conclusion

- Enabling policy/legal framework, well-thought through institutions and rationally constituted organizations including staff whose capacities are enhanced through continuous learning the non-technical aspects of implementing pro-poor LIMS like STDN.
- Software development should go hand in hand with institutional reform
- Human capacity development – sustained changes in knowledge, skills, and attitudes – needs to take place up until a critical mass in human resources is achieved (and to sustain this from there on).
- Capacity for what? – key to realizing comprehensive reform
  - capacity for developing/appreciating/adapting innovative and pro-poor land tools
  - capacity for citizen and civil society engagement
  - capacity for innovative training and education
  - capacity for knowledge management (land tools documentation, dissemination, etc)



Thank you!

