

## **LAND INFORMATION SYSTEM IMPLEMENTATION. AFTER 6 MONTHS, WHICH RESULT?**

On Thursday November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017, in the UCBC's conference hall, took place the validation workshop of the midterm evaluation report for the support project to the land administration in the implementation of a land information system as well as a biannual program document. The workshop has been organized by the Christian Bilingual University of the Congo (UCBC) via the Integrated Research Institute through its Sharing The Land program. Under the facilitation of Dr Severin MUGANGU MATABARO, Professor and independent consultant, the session gathered more than 70 participants among which the provincial minister of land affairs of North Kivu, Mr. NZANZU KASIVITA Carly, the local land administration, the representatives of the city hall of Beni, the municipal administration, the local committee of support to the land administration in the implementation of the land information system, customary authorities, MONUSCO, judiciary authorities as well as different partners in the land sector within Beni town.

The purpose of the evaluation, for the Sharing the Land program, was to appreciate the progress, to discuss and analyze strengths and weaknesses of the implemented methodology so as to establish new orientations in the pursue of the expected results as well as new opportunities to guarantee the sustainability of the project in Masiani neighborhood pilot site. The evaluation also carried out the scientific issue of the project within the prospect of informing the national land reform program about the existed major innovation to enable considering the succeeded experiences from the ground. In fact, after six months of hard work, it is obvious to make a step backward in order to evaluate the relevance of different interventions, the achieved results as well as the impact of the project regarding the progress of the addressed problematics, that of crisis within land governance and the recurrent land conflicts in Beni.

In his welcoming speech, Professor David Kasali, Senior Rector of the UCBC, presented the essence of the institution's intervention in order to improve land governance via the implemented project in Masiani neighborhood pilot site in Beni. In fact, he stated to the participants that, as an institution designed for scientific exploration, the use of science and research to respond to several needs of the community by reducing slightest bit land conflicts that gangrene the town of Beni, is the UCBC's alma mater. "As a pilot experience to inspire the processes of land reform

in DRC, my concern is to see that our actions be covered by a provincial edict so as to provide them legal basis that can make them opposable to all” he added while addressing his recommendations to the provincial minister of land affairs of North Kivu.

Professor Severin MUGANGU, on that matter, revealed, during the presentation of the report document, that the results were achieved in significant percentage because more than 2191 parcels were digitized; 79 cases of conflict identified of which 25 in the process of mediation, 2 cases resolved and 6 cases almost resolved thanks to mediation; as well as several workshop sessions of sensitization organized by the Civil society in order to inform local population on the benefits of the project in anticipating a perfect implication of local community. “Considering the speed in which the progress of activities on the ground is evaluated, I believe that the plan of the parcels of land will be available by the end of the project periodicity. Then, it will offset the cadastral plan in this neighborhood and anticipate potential contestations in the future”, he added.

However, it is more interested to highlight the fact that, beside the successful achievement of the project so far, participants attention was attracted by substantial results accounted but not expected: the recorded or mapped out parcels, public street restored and the projection of the readjustment of the urban plan. Moreover, Mr. Jospin MUSONDIVWA, Chief of Technical office, revealed to the participants that 155 parcels of land were recorded during enumeration and hopefully, as the program continues, people will still be willing to get into the process of land titles acquirement at the land administration office. He added that the cadaster service assigned, without any fees payed, 115 cadastral numbers to the non-recorded parcels of land.

Regardless of the instable state of the political, ideological and security context of Beni, which constitute, in one way or another, the serious threat to the continuity of the project, it is obvious to mention a few lessons learnt and identified from the experience of the Sharing the Land program through this project. Therefore, it has been noticed that:

- When land actors are mobilized and well structured, the expected objectives in the project are successfully achieved because of hard team work and convergence of expertise and ideas:
- Apathetic officers and gangrene in corruption might, thanks to a positive interaction with other social actor’s institutions and others, through projects

addressing relevant problematics, become proactive, efficient, more responsible and respectful:

- Innovations coupled with appropriated communication strategies and mechanisms to resolve conflicts born before or during the implementation, might constitute appropriate responses to the complex and delicate social problems:
- Without the housing scheme, the urban plan readjustment is possible favored by the implementation of a land information system and production of parcels of land plans;
- Political interferences resulted from interests threatened or unveiled by the land information system may not constitute the blocking factor, when the civil society is strongly implicated in the process of land information system implementation.

In fact, the project, basic of the actual evaluation, is being implemented by the UCBC's Integrated Research Institute via its Sharing the Land program since February 2017 with the financial support from UNHabitat-GLTN in the Masiani neighborhood pilot site in Beni, North kivu, the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

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