

# Securing Land Rights within the Continuum of Land Rights Approach: Evidence from Tenure Security Innovation in Kenya, Uganda and Zambia

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**Key words:** Access to land; Cadastre; Informal settlements; Land management; Security of tenure; Continuum of Land Rights, Land Tenure, Innovation, Communities, Social Tenure Domain Model

## SUMMARY

The Paper demonstrates the emerging outcomes of land tenure security interventions in informal settlements in Kenya, Uganda and Zambia. The innovations are multi-dimensional, adding new dimensions and forms of understanding on land tenure security and how to improve them. The notion of tenure security pursued in the paper is founded on the continuum of land rights approach. Informed by current land tenure debates where land rights are seen as lying on a continuum (GLTN 2012); the paper stimulates new thinking on the different forms of perceiving land tenure security improvement. To this end, the paper reinterprets, based on the experiences of the land tenure security interventions; community voices and actions, government decisions and actions as constituting key forms of tenure security improvements that occupy space on the continuum of land rights. Accordingly, there are range of actions, steps and decisions on land that are interpreted as having a meaning on the security of land tenure rights (Payne ed. 2002). Conceptually, it is such actions, steps and decisions; as taken individually or collectively by multiple land stakeholders; that this paper interprets as representing different forms of tenure security that lie on the continuum of land rights. Therefore, this paper interrogates, based on land security interventions in Kenya, Uganda and Zambia; what these series of steps, actions and decisions are; and concludes that these represent key steps or elements on the continuum of land rights pathway. A key argument in the paper is that such land tenure innovations are justifiable and 'fit for purpose' in countries where land policy implementation, especially tenure reform, is weak. Further to that, post conflict countries are best placed to benefit from such land tenure innovations.

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