

# **Your Rights, Your Future: Scaling Fit for Purpose Land Tenure in a Post-COVID World**

**Amy Coughenour Betancourt (USA)**

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## **SUMMARY**

What would it take to document, register, and secure the rights of 1 billion tenure-insecure people around the world? This is the question that Cadasta Foundation sought to answer at its founding in 2015 as a global land rights platform harnessing technology and services to advance land and resource rights for the most vulnerable. Now five years later, with the land rights of nearly 5 million people from over 1,500 communities in 33 countries encompassing 11.7 million hectares documented on the Cadasta Platform, we have a lot to share with the FIG community. What technologies are working, even for the most marginalized communities with limited connectivity? How do we train and equip local partners and community members as parasurveyors? What kind of partnerships are needed to facilitate the work? In what contexts are rights being secured, and what type of rights are they? How are we engaging women, youth, and landholders in the process? And what are the lessons from COVID-19 that will carry this work into the future? This paper and session will share Cadasta's experiences in working along the land rights continuum from the informal to the formal, in places like India, Uganda, Kenya, Mozambique, Indonesia, and Colombia. Cadasta's CEO, Amy Coughenour Betancourt, will share real examples with dashboards, maps, photos, and video clips to bring the experiences from data collectors and community members alive. She will share the latest impact data from third-party evaluations and will also talk about the challenges of this work--technical, financial, political, and logistical--that can either facilitate or hinder progress in normal times and during a pandemic and beyond. Finally, she will share thoughts about the future of the Cadasta Platform and other technologies as enablers of scale for civil society, government, private sector, and community stakeholders who have much to gain from cost-effective, sustainable, and accessible technologies and services. These efforts need to not only support the securing of land rights, they need to address climate, conservation, sustainable land use, and access to broader benefits and services. And finally, they need to put data and decisions in the hands of those who matter most--families and communities left out of formal land systems who

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rely on their land for their livelihoods, their lives, and their futures.

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