

# Land Tenure Securitization in Africa - Challenges, Issues and Perspectives

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## SUMMARY

The population in Africa is increasing rapidly. In some countries, the population will double in the next 20-30 years. The fast and irreversible urbanization is encroaching actual or potential agricultural lands that will be needed to feed the increasing population, threatening food security. Land planning, if not absent, is way behind the pace of the too often anarchic development.

Local authorities are overwhelmed, not having sufficient resources and adequate tools to deal properly with such challenges. Without knowing the actual situation on land, they are like planning in the dark.

They urgently need a cadastre to know who owns what and where in order to provide lighting on the current situation and more importantly, to illuminate the path towards a sustainable development. Without knowing the actual situation on land, no land governance nor basic land planning is possible.

On their side, citizens need more land tenure security to protect them against forced eviction, land grabbing, land conflicts but also to be able to transfer their land to their descendants or sell it. This is namely what the SDGs aims to provide to all by 2030.

This paper, through the prism of various land security initiatives in Africa, will highlight the main issues and challenges that make such initiative not easy to put in place. It will also try to identify opportunities that could help to overcome difficulties and, hopefully provide to all, the land tenure security and the land planning tools they need now.