



**MEDIA PACK
DOCUMENT # 3**

Innovative geospatial data, and digitalization technologies, including blockchain, for land administration and trade in Africa

Transformation of a business model into a digital business through the use of digital technologies increases value through innovation, customer experience, and efficiency. Land administration (LA) has benefited from these advances and move from manual land administration systems (LASs) to digital LAS has been in progress. Currently, diverse LA data are georeferenced and managed in digital land information systems. These geospatial data enable precise identification of property boundaries, reducing land disputes and enhancing property rights security, and ease the use of data for updating and analysis to support in various services, including land-based trade.

The full realization of the AfCFTA can benefit from land information based planning and decision making. Land administration is the main source of land information. It generates spatial based (object) and subject (attributes) on interests to land, which are crucial for various businesses, including trade.

The key issues to be discussed include but not limited to how digital LASs increase transparency in land recording; and particularly under a participatory approach. Data are secured and easily accessible to relevant stakeholders. This may accelerate transactions and facilitate investments and trade. The increase in digital models is reflected in demand for spatial and other information on tenure rights for governments and individuals. This action highlights the significance of ensuring that everyone has access to digital LA services, especially women and vulnerable groups.

The revolutionary blockchain is also emerging in land administration activities in Africa. It allows for the immutable storage of land records reducing the risks of forgery and corruption. Through blockchain, trade can be conducted transparently and securely, and thus fostering a favorable business environment and attracting more investors.

A wide range of policy objectives that must be addressed by LASs, include among others, economic instability, newly developing business ecosystems, decentralized operating environments, and rapid urbanization. Redesigns of LASs must be fit-for-purpose for their intended use and enhance areas of land use planning, land development, land tenure security, property valuation and taxation, and the reduction of land disputes for the sake of AfCFTA.