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SUMMARY

Land and property are generally the major assets in any economy. In most countries, land may account for between half to three-quarters of national wealth. Land is a fundamental factor for agricultural production and is thus directly linked to food security. Security of land tenure is an important foundation for economic development, social and environmental management, and also for supporting reconstruction following a disaster or conflict. There are many complexities, dimensions and themes associated with land administration and management. Securing land rights is particularly relevant to vulnerable groups such as the poor, women, orphans, displaced persons and ethnic minority groups. Fees and taxes on land are often a significant source of government revenue, particularly at the local level. In most societies, there are many competing demands on land including development, agriculture, pasture, forestry, industry, infrastructure, urbanization, biodiversity, customary rights, ecological and environmental protection. Many countries have great difficulty in balancing the needs of these competing demands. Land continues to be a cause of social, ethnic, cultural and religious conflict. For many centuries, many wars and revolutions have been fought over rights to land. Throughout history, virtually all civilizations have devoted considerable efforts to defining rights to land and in establishing institutions to administer these rights, i.e. land administration systems.

Reform of land administration in any country is a long-term prospect requiring decades of sustained commitment. It is a major investment of capital and human resources and requires strong and consistent leadership in order to achieve effective, sustainable outcomes. The World Bank, with the support of development partners and civil society organizations, are continuing to support land projects throughout the world. These projects have had varying emphases on social equity and economic development. In post-conflict countries, tenure security and access to land are major factors in providing long-term stability.

This paper outlines the World Bank's support for land reform programs to meet the challenges of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), and presents the reconstruction of land and property rights in Aceh, Indonesia, as a special case study.

http://www.fig.net/pub/monthly_articles/november_2006/bell_november_2006.htm

En este documento se menciona el caso de los países de América Latina:

"While land reforms have achieved considerable success in some Asian countries such as Japan, Korea and Taiwan, land reforms in Latin America have often been less successful. One reason for limited impact was that reforms were often guided by short-term political objectives"

El caso de El Salvador es representativo del caso: Después de un esfuerzo de 8 años y un avance importante en el camino de la regularización de la tierra en este país, el cual ha sido un ejemplo internacional, por falta de visión a largo plazo y de sinceridad así como por mediocres cálculos políticos que nunca toman en cuenta los beneficiarios, los esfuerzos y resultados logrados están ahora en riesgo de quedarse vanos y deber re iniciarse de cero en el futuro.