



# **Management of Socio-Economic Data on Land in Mali**

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## **Abstract**

Land management in Africa presents enormous challenges, both in terms of access to this important asset for life and in terms of its governance. These unsolved difficulties are still observable in both urban and rural areas. Despite its very large area (1,241,238 km<sup>2</sup>), and its large reserves of arable land, Mali faces a massive exodus towards urban centers, more specifically Bamako the capital city. This poses the serious problem of housing, and of food security. Thus, there is a rush on the land, both in urban and peri-urban areas, and in rural areas. Mali's development is largely dependent on the rural and the mining

sector. The related problems are intimately linked to land and its management. It is aware of this situation that NEPAD wanted first to make an inventory of the required socio-economic data, then to consider the assistance which can be brought for a more adequate management. To this end, the AERC/CREA was instructed by NEPAD to make an inventory of socio-economic land data in each of the selected pilot countries, including Mali, and to provide insights for improving their management so as to facilitate their use and access by researchers, decision-makers and the public. It must be recognized that in Mali, land data management has always been difficult, as the organizations in charge of it have always been faced with an insufficiency of the required resources - human, material and financial. Also, it is worth highlighting the complexity of the data to be managed, and the many disputes they have always presented.

This policy note reports the salient results and policy implications of this study. These results come from interviews with key stakeholders in land management and governance in Mali, and from a documentary review.

To lead an efficient and rational management of the land sector, with a view to reducing the interminable conflicts and disputes, the Ministry of State property and Land Affairs was created, and its branches strengthened and empowered. The Ministry deals with the necessary measures to solve land speculation throughout the national territory.

Planning tools designed, but not used enough, did not solve the land problem. The development of a national spatial planning scheme provided for in the newly adopted National Territorial Planning Policy (PNAT) will take charge of the distribution of activities and development roles to achieve the desired economic balance.

The State property and Land Reform Secretariat was created by Decree No. 2016-0177/PM-RM of March 25, 2016. Its fundamental mission is to work towards the creation of a state property and land database. Thus, a new unique national parcel/plot identifier has been introduced for rational management of land throughout the territory. Each urban or rural parcel/plot will have its national cadastral identification number (NINACAD).

**Keywords:** *Socio Economic Data, Land, Mali, Rural, Urban*

## Introduction

The various human activities (agriculture, animal husbandry, mining, housing, setting up businesses, etc.) are directly related to land. Its good management is supposed to positively impact the activities concerned. Thus, everywhere human being seeks to get a portion of land, for housing, farming, animal breeding, or setting up a business. That's the reason why it is advisable to manage this asset, to regulate its accessibility and even to consider it as an economic good which is sold, bought and lent. Thus, there is need to define all the contours of land management, and to understand the methods of allocation. The priority missions of the administrative authorities are:

- protection and management of land resources (monitoring of resources, mobilization of young people for community work, policy, etc.),
- management of access to land (allocation, exclusion) and
- prevention and resolution of disputes

Even in urban areas, a significant part of the population practices agriculture. In addition, to allowing a growing population get housing and set up small business, the problem of land space management in urban areas arises acutely. In fact, the question of Mali's development is largely dependent on its agriculture, which itself can be supported by appropriate access to land in accordance with the basic principles of law.

## Methodology

For the analysis of land management in Mali, the study used secondary data in several documents and on empirical investigation with the NEPAD team of five experts. The AERC-appointed national coordinator was associated with this team to better understand land management in Mali, particularly the existence, quality, and accessibility of socio-economic data on land in the country.

Field visits and interviews were exclusively carried out in Bamako, the capital city of Mali, over a week. Indeed, most public institutions and organizations in charge of land management are based in Bamako. This is also where many land disputes occur. The present work on land data inventory and improvement strategy was organized in collaboration with the Permanent Secretariat of State property and Land Reform in Mali, which helped draw up an exhaustive list of the concerned institutions in preparation of interviews. About a dozen of these institutions were visited. In each of

them, the purpose of the mission was exposed and various questions relating to the management of socio-economic land data were asked. A debriefing was organized thereafter with the Permanent Secretariat of State property and Land Reform in Mali, to share the results and draw conclusions.

## The inventory and strategy for improving land data quality and access

To improve the actions carried out for greater efficiency and effectiveness by the Permanent Secretariat of State Property and Land Reform in Mali, the following strategic axes are proposed for development:

### **Axis 1: Improvement of the Management of the National Statistical System in State property and Land Affairs**

- Operational objective 1.1: Adapt the legal and organizational framework
- Operational objective 1.2: Improve coordination between the various organizations concerned

### **Axis 2: Capacity Building of the National State Property and Land Statistics System**

- Operational objective 2.1: Provide the Statistical System with high-quality and sufficient human resources
- Operational objective 2.2: Equip the Statistical System properly with latest generation IT Equipment

### **Axis 3: Improvement of Statistical Production**

- Operational objective 3.1: Improve the quality of statistical production
- Operational objective 3.2: Develop statistical production to better cover user needs

### **Axis 4: Development of Analysis, Improvement, Dissemination and Promotion of Use of Statistical Data**

- Operational objective 4.1 Enhance statistical data

- Operational objective 4.2: Ensure better dissemination of statistical production
- Operational objective 4.3: Promote efficient use of statistical data.

## Conclusions

It has been observed that security and social cohesion are threatened by conflicts around land. For example, women often do not have access to land with the application of customary land law in some regions. Only 18% of them are identified as having access to land in rural areas.

In addition, the State is unable to optimally resolve the issue of land reserves which are not used in accordance with the regulations. The insufficient use of the existing planning tools did not allow to resolve the land problem. The development of a national spatial planning scheme provided for in the newly adopted National Territorial Planning Policy (PNAT) will take charge of the distribution of activities and development poles according to the desired economic balance.

Also, the fight against land speculation remained timid and weak. Speculation is experienced as a high-speed race for land grabbing, both in urban and rural areas. It has no positive effect on economic growth, since many plots remain frozen and outside the active economic circuit. It thus constitutes a source of degradation and waste of natural resources.

In view of the disorder and the insufficiency of the measures noted in the state property and land management, the political authorities proceeded to the creation of a Ministry in charge of resolving these issues. Thus, the Secretariat for State property and Land Reform was created by Decree n°2016-0177/PM-RM of March 25, 2016. The overarching mission of this public organization consists in working to create a database on state property and land affairs. Thus, a new unique national parcel identifier has emerged, and this for rational management of land throughout the country. Each urban or rural parcel will have its national cadastral identification number (NINACAD).

At the end of the above analysis, the Permanent Secretariat of State property and Land Reform appears as a new and dynamic instrument, capable of cleaning up the state property and land sector in Mali, guaranteeing more transparency and good governance therein. Thus, in terms of demand for statistics, the strength of this organization consists, above all, of constituting a framework for consultation, through its document of state and land policy, and of sector development strategies. Despite the presence of that organization, we deplore the insufficient demand for statistics by researchers, planners, administrations, and donors.

Regarding statistical production, the secretariat's strength lies in the existence of a large mass of data on land. However, many weaknesses exist, including the insufficient in-depth analysis of the data, the small amount of standardization activities (concepts, quality standards), the low level of territorial disaggregation of statistical data, the insufficiency of statistics related to gender and socio-professional categories. Regarding the dissemination and use of state property and land statistics, the means of dissemination are still insufficient. Likewise, the lack of user training for better use of statistics should be mentioned. Thus, the Permanent Secretariat of State property and Land Reform must acquire enough quality human and material resources, to carry out field work as desired.



## Mission

To strengthen local capacity for conducting independent, rigorous inquiry into the problems facing the management of economies in sub-Saharan Africa.

The mission rests on two basic premises: that development is more likely to occur where there is sustained sound management of the economy, and that such management is more likely to happen where there is an active, well-informed group of locally based professional economists to conduct policy-relevant research.

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