

Land Information System for Sustainable Development in Jamaica

Trevor L. Shaw, Caribbean Vocal, UNGGIM-Americas

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Abstract:

¹The availability of land is the key to human existence, and its distribution and use are of vital importance. Land records, therefore, are of great concerns to all governments.

In 1996, the Government of Jamaica prepared the National Land Policy of Jamaica. The policy established a framework for effective planning, management, development and use of land in Jamaica. This framework includes a growing land information system that enables land administration programmes to secure rights in land through land regularization or clarification, encourage responsible land use, build an active land market and improve the level of land tax compliance. In this regard, it might be useful from a regional standpoint that Latin American and Caribbean countries implement a system for reviewing their land policy on a timely basis to ensure that policy always remain relevant to the plans for sustainable development. However, for the policy to be effective, it must be long-term and ought to span succeeding political administrations, for the benefit of present and future generations.

This paper sets out to look at the linkages among cadastre, land registration, land valuation, estate management and tax administration in the Jamaica land administration experience, and the possible contribution this experience could make to regional development.

¹Simpson, S. Rowton, 1976. *Land Law and Registration*. Cambridge University Press.