

TECHNOLOGY FOR PROPERTY RIGHTS

Project Brief

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With an estimated 10 to 12 million untitled land parcels, improving land tenure security is a major development challenge in the Philippines. The potential to improve individual well-being and bring positive impact to families and communities is significant. If addressed, secure land tenure would offer a wide range of benefits such as 1) increasing social inclusion; 2) improving the prospects of peace; 3) increasing economic opportunities, investments, and employment; and 4) improving governance as local governments improve their land administration and management systems and increase their revenue collections from real property taxes.

Technology for Property Rights

The Technology for Property Rights project was created to address the poor titling situation by promoting policies, partnerships and technologies to facilitate land titling. By helping the Philippine government provide land titles efficiently and giving the lot owners the opportunities to have formal land titles, the project hopes to help Filipinos enjoy the benefits of land tenure security.

The Technology for Property Rights is a project of The Asia Foundation and Foundation for Economic Freedom, supported by Omidyar Network. In partnership with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and local government units (LGUs), the Technology for Property Rights aims to make it easier for Filipinos to secure titles to land by implementing two activities: 1) creating a tablet-based App that DENR and LGU employees can use to help applicants assemble supporting papers required for titling; and 2) introducing the use of drones as a cost-effective tool for land surveying.



Surveys by Remotely Piloted Aircraft

One of the main reasons why land remains occupied but untitled is the high cost of surveys which discourages lot owners from applying for titles. To make these surveys less expensive, TPR is introducing the use of Remotely Piloted Aircraft (more commonly known as "drones") as an alternative surveying instrument.

The project aims to show that drone surveys can meet the government's accuracy standards and that it is cost-effective and time-efficient. It also seeks the adoption of policies promoting the use of drones for surveying.

This component is in partnership with Micro Aerial Projects L.L.C. and Skyeye, Inc., both pioneers in providing drone solutions to land titling and other development challenges.

Mobile Applications

The "Public Land Application Mobile" (PLA Mobile), a tablet-based App which will make it easier for ENR and LGU officials to help applicants comply with documentary requirements for titling. The App provides easy access to standard forms and templates which can be printed and filled up. Accomplished forms can be scanned and their digital copies can be secured in convenient folders for each applicant.

PLA Mobile synchronizes with a desktop module that keeps files in convenient folders for each applicant. When all requirements have been completed, a formal application for title is filed with the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO). At this point, the data in PLA Mobile can be ported directly into DENR's Land Administration and Management System (LAMS).

This component is in partnership with Rush Hour Creative Solutions, an experienced developer of e-commerce and mobile apps based in the Philippines.