

The Benefits of Land Registration and Titling: Economic and Social Perspectives¹

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ABSTRACT

The paper analyzes the evolution of formal land registration and titling systems as an institutional arrangement designed to improve tenure security and to facilitate greater efficiency of land and credit markets. Evidence from various studies is presented, demonstrating that land titling leads to better access to formal credit, higher investment in land, higher income and output, and higher land values. The paper emphasizes, however, that there are prerequisites for land registration to be an economically viable public undertaking. Furthermore, there are potential social repercussions that need to be considered when designing land registration systems. Several issues are highlighted as warranting further research.

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