



# Land Governance in an Interconnected World

ANNUAL WORLD BANK CONFERENCE ON LAND AND POVERTY  
WASHINGTON DC, MARCH 19-23, 2018



Land and Poverty Conference 2018 Masterclass on

## 13-05 | Blockchain Technology and Land Administration: Legal and Policy Landscape

Friday, March 23, 2018 | 11:00 am – 12:30 pm | MC 2-800, World Bank

### INSTRUCTOR

Baloko Makala, Legal and Policy Lead at the Blockchain lab  
The World Bank Group

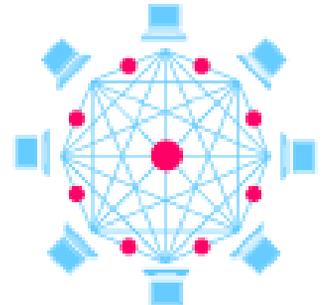


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Land rights arguably represent the most important economic asset for billions of people around the world, and a critical source of livelihood, particularly in developing countries. Blockchain Technology is heralded as a solution to long-standing land administration challenges.

When designed inappropriately, land policies impact negatively socio-economic progress, more so in developing countries. Such policies are usually characterized by outdated laws and slow and dysfunctional administrative processes that hamper private investment, undermine good governance and reduce the ability of local authorities to raise taxes. Other issues worth mentioning is the highly uneven distribution of land ownership and land access that limits opportunities for disadvantaged groups and discrimination based on gender or social-economic, ethnic or cultural background, which often leads to conflict and violence.

The blockchain is a digitized decentralized public ledger that contains records of completed transactions otherwise known as blocks. A copy of the ledger is kept by nodes that are participants in the processing of these transactions and transactions are added by way of consensus between the nodes. In addition to being touted as immutable, Blockchain technology presents attractive features particularly in terms of transparency, data integrity and security because storage of information is decentralized and every node stores the information on the network, each having the ability to maintain and continuously verify a complete copy of all transactions.

Blockchain Technology is a reality today. Policy and lawmakers are observing increasing public interest in the technology and its potential. While Blockchain technology indeed presents a tremendous potential, questions remain on its ability to address policy challenges about land administration that have very little to do with technology, for example bringing citizens and property into the formal system.

Therefore, the objectives of this masterclass session have been set as follows to set the policy and legal landscape on Blockchain technology in Land Administration.



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## 13-01 | Blockchain Technology and Land Administration: Legal and Policy Landscape

Friday, March 23, 2018 | 11:00 am – 12:30 pm | MC C1-100, World Bank

### Session objectives:

1. Reviewing underlying concepts of land administration including legal and policy considerations at a high level
2. Introducing Blockchain Technology and the Blockchain Ecosystem at a high level including other key distributed ledger Technologies (DLTs)
3. Landscape on Blockchain Technology and land administration
4. Exploring Smart contracts as key components of the Blockchain technology as applied to a land administration process (e.g., registration of land title)
5. Exploring potential legal issues and opportunities of the Blockchain model
6. Exploring policy opportunities and challenges on Blockchain technology and land administration

### Methodology

Blockchain Technology applied to land administration is a novel concept. The availability of uses cases is quite limited and even lesser known legal cases on Blockchain technology on land administration.

Therefore:

1. We will rely significantly on existing knowledge and resources on land administration
2. Known uses cases of Blockchain technology applied to land administration
3. A demonstration of a smart contract
4. A review of legal challenges of Blockchain technology applied to Blockchain technology We will ensure to have an interactive session that will elicit as much interest as questions from members of the audience.

**Targeted audience:** policy makers, development practitioners, anyone with interest in Blockchain technology .

**Actions required:** None