ADVANCED INTERNATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMME





ITP311

Applied Land Governance

For Liberia and Zimbabwe

Strengthened capacity amongst public institutions to increase trust for public services and secure land rights, in particular for women and vulnerable people.

August 2025 – May 2026

Closing date for applications:

› May 30, 2025

Photo: Kent Nilsson

Sweden
Sverige

Sida

Welcome

The World Bank estimates that only 10 % of rural land in sub-Saharan Africa is registered, which leaves 90 % unregistered and subsequently vulnerable to land grabbing, expropriation without fair compensation and corruption. Furthermore, in many countries it is practically impossible for women to formally hold legal property rights i.e. to own land.

In areas where the community administers the land, women have difficulty accessing land as many local communities have strong traditional and patriarchal structures. Securing access to land for the rural poor (men and women) has long been a key component in poverty reduction measures as well as for economic development. It is well known that land conflicts escalate and become violent when the land governance systems in place are ineffective, corrupt and/or dysfunctional. This causes weak, unsecured and non-negotiable land tenure and resource rights. Efforts to protect land records, to mediate land disputes and to rebuild capacity in land governance can help reduce tension, stabilize regions, set the stage for productive investments and increase trust for public services, all contributing to welfare and economic growth.

This advanced international training programme (ITP) focuses on land related issues and should be viewed in light of the ability to develop trusted public administration with a clear mandate to enhance impartial, transparent and reliable services to society – a practical implementation of "good land governance" into **Applied Land Governance**.

The central point of this programme is cooperation and trust to stimulate basic democratic principles for equality and transparency in public administration. The programme will integrate human rights in accordance with the UN declaration and especially strengthen women's land rights in the context of customary land tenure.

This ITP is designed for professionals within public organisations, members of CSO´s, NGO´s and representatives from the local community, to initiate, implement and manage processes of change.

The programme participants will also be exposed to the latest developments in land management. Moreover, they will create regional networks to share, exchange and acquire knowledge on how to effectively deliver services enhancing people's, and in particular women's, land rights in a participatory and transparent manner. The methodology used assumes that your organisation wishes to carry out change regarding these aspects and is willing to invest its own resources to make change happen.

Lantmäteriet (the Swedish mapping, cadastral and land registration authority) has long experience of international cooperation in these fields.

In this brochure you will find information on the specific objectives for this particular programme, its content and structure, and how and when to apply. The scheduled programmes will include work in each country and training in Sweden and a selected African country.

Sida and Lantmäteriet hereby invite you to nominate candidates.

Alan AtKisson
DIRECTOR OF PARTNERSHIP AND INNOVATION
Sida

Nils Svartz
ACTING DIRECTOR GENERAL
Lantmäteriet

Programme objectives

The main purpose of this programme is to strengthen the capacity of and cooperation between institutions and organisations in the land sector. This in order to make a difference on the ground to enhance the living conditions for poor and vulnerable people living mainly in peri-urban and urban areas. This programme aims to give participants new tools and knowledge on how to approach and elevate a settlement towards formal status with increased security of ownership and access to land as a result.

BENEFITS

- **Impact:** To contribute to sustainable and secure living conditions in peri-urban/urban settings by increasing cooperation and building trust in land governance authorities by applying a holistic approach to land interventions.
- **Outcome A:** Land administration authorities have taken initiatives to strengthen the lands rights for inhabitants in vulnerable areas.
- **Outcome B:** Land administration authorities have taken initiatives to improve the cooperation with other authorities, civil society and local stakeholders.
- **Outcome C:** Women's participation in land administration and land related services has increased.

Contents

Secured land ownership rights are key elements for sustainable development. The control of land and its use is a major task for governments and legal systems. An impartial public sector is a prerequisite for effective land governance and sustainable land use.

The programme will have a holistic approach to the change intervention which will include bringing in participants from a wide net in the society, from central and local government institutions via NGO's to key opinion makers/influencers from the local community.

Each participant of the ITP will contribute to a particular change project derived from the local context. Before implementing the change project, it is necessary to establish its intention and scope within each participant's organisation to ensure full support and commitment during the whole programme period.

The central point of this programme is cooperation and trust with the intention to facilitate sustainable results after the completion of the change projects.

The programme is hence about organisational integrity, improved cooperation and trust between central and local government, NGO's, CSO's and the local community with regards to land management.

Essential aspects of land matters that will permeate the entire programme are:

- Sustainability
- Environmental aspects
- Gender equality and Human rights
- Conflict sensitivity

The programme strives for effective results through change projects towards attaining organisational and institutional change as well as enhanced knowledge and skills.

Change project

The change project approach should strengthen knowledge, capacity and awareness among the participants to influence and inspire their home organisations, initiating improvements in line with adopted national plans and policies for the Land Sector. This covers aspects of accountability, transparency, effectiveness and quality of service delivery for women and men with different ethnic and social backgrounds. It is essential that selected change projects derive from the local context and are implemented by participants' organisations.

The programme is divided into 5 courses with different participants, each to last approximately one year. Each programme will continue its own change project with strong local ownership. The experiences and results achieved have been handed over to the next course.

The change projects are already on-going. In Liberia, the change project is "Deeding of Government land" in Bentol and Brewerville. In Zimbabwe, the change project is "Planning and constructing a market site" in Epworth and Ruwa.

Possible areas of interest for the change projects:

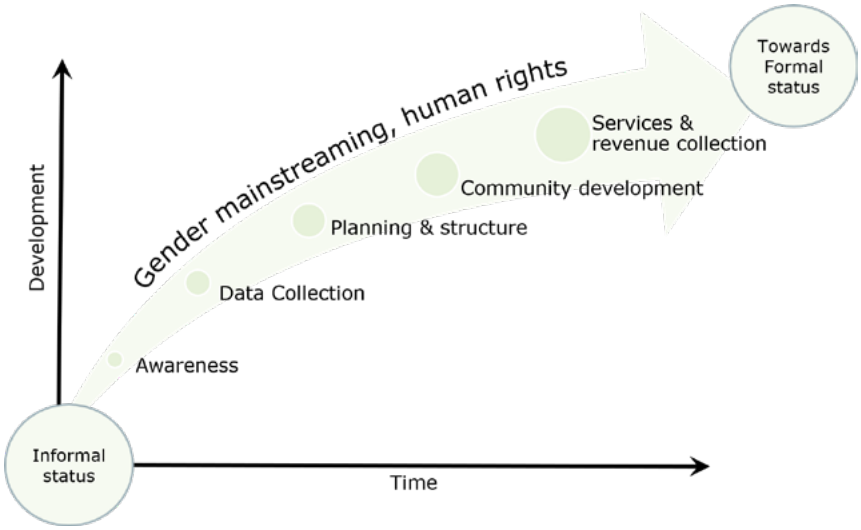
- Waste management
- Drone Mapping & Data Collection
- Street addressing
- Issue land occupation permits
- Awareness to communities and other stakeholders
- Women's market
- Cooperatives

Programme structure

The driving force behind programme participation is the ambition and willingness among participants and their organisations to carry out change projects identified and agreed upon in the local context contributing to the overall programme objectives.

Mentors from Lantmäteriet will support the participants to carry out their change projects.

The change projects and work approach will be elaborated among the participants and their organisations. During the entire programme period the achieved results will be measured and compared with expectations to indicate the status of the change projects.



The duration of each course within this programme is approximately nine months containing work in each country and training in Sweden as well as training in a third African country (to be selected).

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

The planned activities below are preliminary and may be subject to change.

Initiation phase
Welcome and introduction to all participants in respective country (Liberia and Zimbabwe). This activity is planned to be carried out digitally and includes introduction to the programme outline and content, expectations, practical and logistical issues as well as introduction to the Swedish society and system.

Swedish phase (Approximately three weeks in Sweden)
The content will be adjusted to the needs of the participants and will focus on setting a basis to achieve the ITP goals, including teambuilding, bench marking visits and learning from Swedish experiences, as well as planning the work to be carried out in the change project for each country. All participants are expected to share their own expertise and experience with fellow participants and lectures.

Change project phase
The participants from each country are expected to implement the change project as a team, contribute to the result with their individual knowledge, experience and network and dedicate the amount of time needed to achieve the expected results.

African phase (Approximately one week)
The training will focus on sharing experiences and learning from a third African country (to be selected).This includes lectures, presentations, group discussions, study visits and teambuilding.

Closing/initation phase (Approximately one week)
At the conclusion of the course, the participants in each country will present achieved results and share challenges and experiences with the participants from the previous courses. After the course the participants are expected to be part of the ITP network and support forthcoming work and activities.

METHODOLGY

The programme utilizes various pedagogical methods to stimulate and optimize learning such as interactive lectures, internet-based meetings, exercises, assignments, learning visits and team-based learning. The programme requires active participation, and everyone is encouraged to share his or her experiences.

All communication and training will be in English.

MANAGEMENT AND STAFF

The programme is organised by Lantmäteriet in cooperation with relevant local and international expertise.

Admission requirements

INVITED COUNTRIES AND AREAS

The following countries are invited to nominate candidates: *Liberia and Zimbabwe*. The total number of participants is limited to 30 per course (15 participants per country).

TARGET GROUPS

It is strongly recommended that each country send a mix of applicants representing central and local governance, civil society (NGO's and CSO's) as well as representatives from the local community and other potential stakeholders.

We encourage everyone to nominate female candidates.

All applicants should (if possible) fulfil these criterias:

- Willingness and ability to travel to Sweden and a selected African country in accordance with the course program
- Basic computer literacy
- Positive attitude towards change
- Openness and willingness to learn
- Personal driving force
- Ability to work individually and in a team
- Willingness and ability to spend time working on the change project

LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

The programme will be organised and conducted in English, without any translation. All applicants must be fluent in English.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

It is recommended that the candidates undergo a medical examination before filling in the Medical Statement in the application form as the programme includes travel and work away from home in a new environment.

Participants accepted to the programme will be obliged to participate in all phases. Substitutes will not be accepted for any phase.

As computers, internet and e-mail will be used continuously in the programme, each participant needs to have access to a computer. A valid e-mail address and internet access will be necessary.

Please note that family members are not allowed to accompany participants to any part of the programme.

COSTS

Sida will cover international travel to Sweden and the selected African country (including board and lodgings), programme fees and literature.

The participants' organisations will be required to cover all other costs such as: domestic travel, personal expenses, salaries for the participants during the programme and work with change projects, visa fees, local airport taxes and departure fees.

PASSPORT / VISA

Participants are responsible for obtaining all necessary visas and fulfilling requirements on passport validity. As soon as possible after admission to the programme, inquiries should be directed to the respective Embassy/Consulate of Sweden or other Schengen representation entities. More information is available on the Swedish Migration Board website: www.migrationsverket.se/english

ACCOMMODATION

All participants will be accommodated at the same hotel in single rooms with private bathrooms when in Sweden and during the African phase.

INSURANCE

Participants are covered by a group insurance for emergency medical care in case of acute illness or accident during the stay in Sweden and the African phase. Medical and dental check-ups are not included. Participants are not covered during work in his/her country of residence.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Download the digital Sida application from the homepage: https://itp.sida.se/local/mxcatalog/view.php#. Fill in the application with required signatures and photos inserted.

The signed and scanned application should be submitted by e-mail to the programme organiser at internationalservices@lm.se.

Applications submitted after the closing date and incomplete applications will not be considered.

SUPPORT AND ENDORSEMENT

To ensure successful implementation of the change project (to be defined) it needs to be fully endorsed and supported by the participant's home organisation throughout the duration of the programme. It should therefore preferably be an integral part of the home organisation's strategic plans and a prioritised task in order to reach sustainable results.

Closing date for application: **May 30, 2025**

SELECTION PROCESS

Selected candidates will be notified by email no later than July 08, 2025, including information on the programme and the practical arrangements. Candidates should immediately confirm their participation.

As part of Sida's work with capacity and institutional development, Sida offers international training programmes (ITP) for participants from low- and middle-income countries in priority areas. The programmes cover areas of strategic importance to the social, environmental and economic development of co-operating countries and are based on identified priorities and needs. In the long-term perspective, the programmes shall contribute to institutional strengthening and capacity development in the co-operating countries.

ORGANISER

LANTMÄTERIET

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Lantmäteriet (the Swedish mapping, cadastral and land registration authority) is an authority under the Ministry of Finance and responsible for the formation of real property units, registration of rights connected to immovable properties and general mapping (production of geodata and maps based on public collection).

In addition, Lantmäteriet is also the national coordinator in the field of geographic information and real property information. As such, Lantmäteriet contributes to the national spatial data infrastructure in close collaboration with other central and local government organisations.

Furthermore, Lantmäteriet has been active for more than thirty years in development cooperation with sister organisations worldwide.

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