

## **Bolivia - land registry system as a basis for equal rights**

### **What**

A complete land registry system has been established and a database filled with all relevant data about ownership of land and buildings for an area of 20,000 km<sup>2</sup> in Bolivia.

### **When**

In the period 1992-2006.

### **Where**

Bolivia, province of Chuquisaca (around the capital Sucre).

### **Why**

Wishing to express its social responsibility, Dutch Kadaster [land register] places its knowledge and expertise at the disposal of other countries in setting up land administration systems. The province of Chuquisaca is a poor, mountainous region, predominately populated by Indians. This population group in Bolivia has never had the security of registered land ownership. Now for the first time, on the basis of the surveyed and registered data of more than 2 million hectares of land, proof of ownership has been issued to the population. Precisely in this poor region of Bolivia these ownership rights form the basis of economic growth, stability and security. Based on the legal certainty about their ownership, people are prepared to invest in the increase in value of their land. In addition the registered ownership creates the opportunity of raising a loan. In this way Kadaster assists developing countries worldwide to combat poverty.

In order to promote the equal treatment of men and women, specific attention has been paid to proof of ownership being issued in proportion to women. Several Indian tribes have also been given proof of ownership for "common indigenous property". This collective property comprises several areas of hundreds of thousands of hectares. Collective land ownership by families or tribes has all but disappeared in the western world, but it is common practice in many developing countries. Consequently Kadaster assists with the registration of such ownership and the training of local people in this context.

### **How**

Commissioned by the Bolivian Ministry of Natural Resources, Kadaster has built up an entire land registry organisation from scratch. During the duration of the project, a number of project managers from the Netherlands supervised more than 100 Bolivians and since last year they are now able to work independently. In addition to the core activities of a land register, an entire supporting structure has been established comprising project management, financial management, staff matters and even marketing in order to put this new organisation and its activities within the country on the map. Dutch experts were regularly called in to assist with these sub-projects. Where possible, however, local parties such as automation experts and universities were involved in the project.