

# Occasional Paper

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## ***ABSTRACT***

### **The World Bank and Land Rights in Africa – an analysis of the Policy Research Report on Land (PRR 2003)**

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In the past two decades many African countries have been involved in land reform processes in one way or another. In most emphasis has been on the privatization of land ownership. The main impulse for the privatization of land has come from donors such as the World Bank who has rediscovered land reform as an issue of importance in the past few years. This paper offers a critical analysis of the World Bank's Policy Research Report on Land (PRR) which was published in 2003. It argues that the unsystematic and intransparent way of writing and the blurring language used, are a conscious strategy chosen to strengthen the acceptability of the main ideas which have, basically remained the same: titling of land and the use of titles as collateral for loans - both with doubtful benefits for the poor.