

What Is Land Administration? Exploring an Inclusive Definition.

Simon Hull, Jennifer Whittal and Rosalie Kingwill (South Africa)

Key words: Land management; Security of tenure; land administration; land governance; definitions; inclusivity

SUMMARY

Land administration is the concept that is commonly used for systems, processes and structures that humans deploy to manage the Earth's resources locally, regionally, nationally and globally. Several definitions of land administration have evolved over the past decades. We interrogate the usefulness and appropriateness of these definitions in the light of developments in the Global South where the dominance of concepts imported from the Global North do not always find resonance. We draw on established literature, a series of workshops on land administration conducted in 2019, and inputs from members of the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG) Land Administration Education Working Group to examine the applicability of current definitions of land administration. The models put forward for land administration in the Global South are challenged by customary land management systems that struggle to conform to the normative framework of imported systems. We argue that the way we conceptualise land administration through definitions and modelling materially affects its fitness for purpose in many socio-political contexts, even where 'fit-for-purpose' land administration is proposed. This is because the conditions on the ground and why they cannot adapt are generally poorly understood. We propose a thorough review of how land administration is defined, understood and used globally, and suggest that change is necessary to maintain its relevance nationally and internationally.

What Is Land Administration? Exploring an Inclusive Definition. (12388)
Simon Hull, Jennifer Whittal and Rosalie Kingwill (South Africa)

FIG Working Week 2024

Your World, Our World: Resilient Environment and Sustainable Resource Management for all
Accra, Ghana, 19–24 May 2024