# landportal.info

# LINKED OPEN DATA AND LAND GOVERNANCE

## WHAT IS LINKED OPEN DATA?

Linked Open Data is a way of enriching, connecting, and linking data in structured, machine readable and standardized formats under open licenses. Linked Open Data enables the same content to be represented in multiple ways in different places simultaneously.

### ADVANTAGES OF LINKED OPEN DATA

**Efficient use of resources** Linked Open Data reduces redundancy by building upon and the work of others rather than replicating existing systems.

**Increased information quality** Linked Open Data encourages the standardization of metadata and data formats, which makes data more reliable and credible.

**Creates added value** By connecting directly to other data, Linked Open Data allows users to discover, use and reuse information in new and unintended ways.

**Identification of gaps in information** Linked Open Data allows data errors to be highlighted and corrected.

**Enhances transparency** Linked Open Data creates the means for citizens and advocacy groups to hold the private sector and governments to account.

### HOW CAN LINKED OPEN DATA IMPROVE LAND GOVERNANCE?

How land is governed is a crucial factor to improving the livelihoods of the 1.2 billion people currently living in poverty.

The Land Portal uses Linked Open Data to combine data about land issues from diverse and credible sources around the world, enabling easy data exploration, manipulation and customization. By bringing land information together in one place, the Land Portal actively addresses gaps in information, while providing a range of ways for the information to be accessed, shared and reused, which contributes to better decision making on land governance.

# THE LAND PORTAL LOCALIZATION STRATEGY

The Land Portal localization strategy seeks to ensure that that local perspectives on land rights and land use, often poorly reflected in large official data-sets, gain more visibility at local, national and global levels by working in partnership with local organizations to improve the accessibility and use of their information about land.

## KEY PRINCIPLES

» Work with existing networks and information providers to build their capacity and add value to the information produced.
» Identify areas of mutual benefit for the Land Portal and local information partners.
» Identify solutions best suited to particular countries and contexts.

## BUILDING TECHNICAL CAPACITY FOR LINKED OPEN DATA

The Land Portal is committed to developing a Linked Open Data ecosystem through a collaborative approach to technical challenges, making its software and other tools freely available to others.

**Taxonomies**: Land issues are debated in natural languages by experts, as well as indigenous peoples and communities. Finding working models that combine precision of meaning with the heterogeneity of users requires continuous effort.

**Data Models**: Land data offers data model challenges due to often conflicting claims to its ownership, such as customary, indigenous or pastoral land rights. Land data models that simplify such realities contribute to land conflicts rather than help resolve them.

**Value of metadata**: The Land Portal is working to develop standards for collecting metadata – such as what the content consists of and where it can be found.

**Local use**: Technical capacity has implications for how content can be made accessible to the people at the local level, who face the most pressing concerns and who have contributed to its creation in the first place