

Use of Global Indicators and Cadastral Information for Tracking Gender and Tenure Issues in the Caribbean

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SUMMARY

Gender disparity in land tenure is not perceived to be a significant issue in the Caribbean. However, global indicators usually require some focus on gender data even though this is not gathered or tracked as a priority in the region. These standardised global indicators are useful to benchmark land administration systems one against the other in order to monitor progress and development, or to evaluate systems for attainment of specific goals. The Global Land Governance Index or LANDex is a group of indicators promoted by the International Land Coalition (ILC) that can be used for benchmarking in this way as well as for evaluation of countries' achievements toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The aim of this work was to explore the individual indicators of the LANDex with a focus on gender disparities in land tenure. Sample sets extracted from Saint Lucia's land registration database were used to examine whether gender disparity occurs in land tenure and if so, to what extent it occurs.

Results from the case study indicated that gender disparity in land tenure does exist to the extent where female land owners owned almost fifty percent of the land that male land owners held. It was noted that the indicator did not account for scale and culture differences and considerable additional information was required to fully elaborate on the indicator as it provided only limited information on the complex situation.

The findings were significant for identifying where these disparities occurred so that the issue can be placed on the agenda of many Caribbean countries.

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