

# Land Information in Informal Settlement Upgrading: the Social Tenure Domain Model as an Empowerment Tool in Okahandja, Namibia

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**Key words:** Access to land; Cadastre; Informal settlements; Security of tenure; Keyword 1; Keyword 2; Keyword 3

## SUMMARY

The role of land information in land information systems using the Social Tenure Domain Model in Namibia

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Keywords: Informal settlement upgrading, land information, participatory enumeration, Social Tenure Domain Model (STDm)

## Summary

Managing informal settlements involves planning the settlements' growth and improving the living conditions of the people through provision of basic services and amenities as well as improving local livelihoods and economy. It also involves managing their complex and changing internal socio-economic arrangements. These require that socio-spatial data be collected and updated frequently. Therefore, accurate and complete information is indispensable for any effective intervention for improving tenure insecurity which is a major characteristic of informal settlements. Namibia's formal land registration system does not accommodate the wide range of land tenure claims in the country, including informal land rights, and its which is associated with informal land tenure system. This implies that most formal development projects implemented in local authorities

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usually do not include the needs of residents of informal settlements who live outside the boundaries of formal land tenure system. As a response to questions concerning what has to be done to manage informal settlements more securely, this paper presents the use of the Social Tenure Domain Model (STDM) for informal settlement upgrading in Okahandja, Namibia. A case study approach is adopted investigating the data collection process and implementation of the STDM in Okahandja's informal settlements. The study explores other emerging technologies for digital and analogue data collection. It is a reflection on the various modes of socio-spatial data collection process in Okahandja and how these data are captured into the STDM for informal settlement upgrading. It highlights the significance of adopting participatory enumeration as it empowers communities to lead their development path to tenure security through information management in STDM.

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