



# FIG Pacific Small Island Development States

## Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests for Sustainable Future

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VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES ON THE  
**Responsible  
Governance of Tenure**  
OF LAND, FISHERIES AND FORESTS IN  
THE CONTEXT OF NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY



## Problems of weak governance

**Discrimination**

Tenure rights not recognized

*Inequitable access*

**Forced eviction**

*Corruption*

*Expensive and difficult procedures*

**Bribery**

**Limited capacity**

**No accountability or transparency**

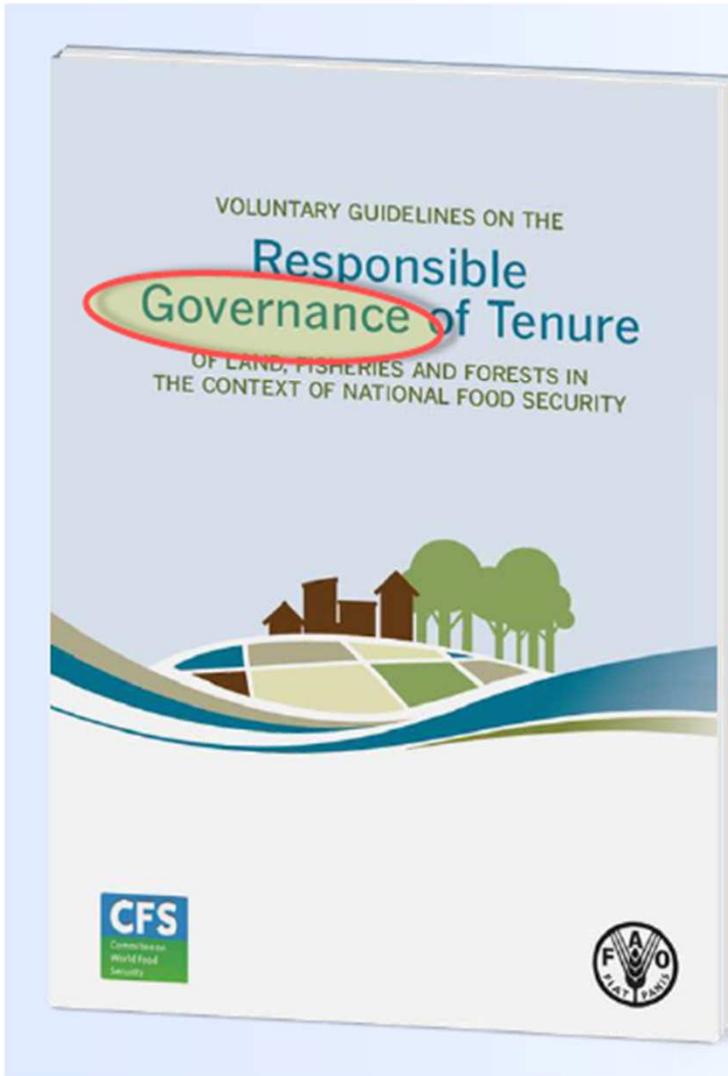
**Contradictory laws and policies**

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# What are the Guidelines about?

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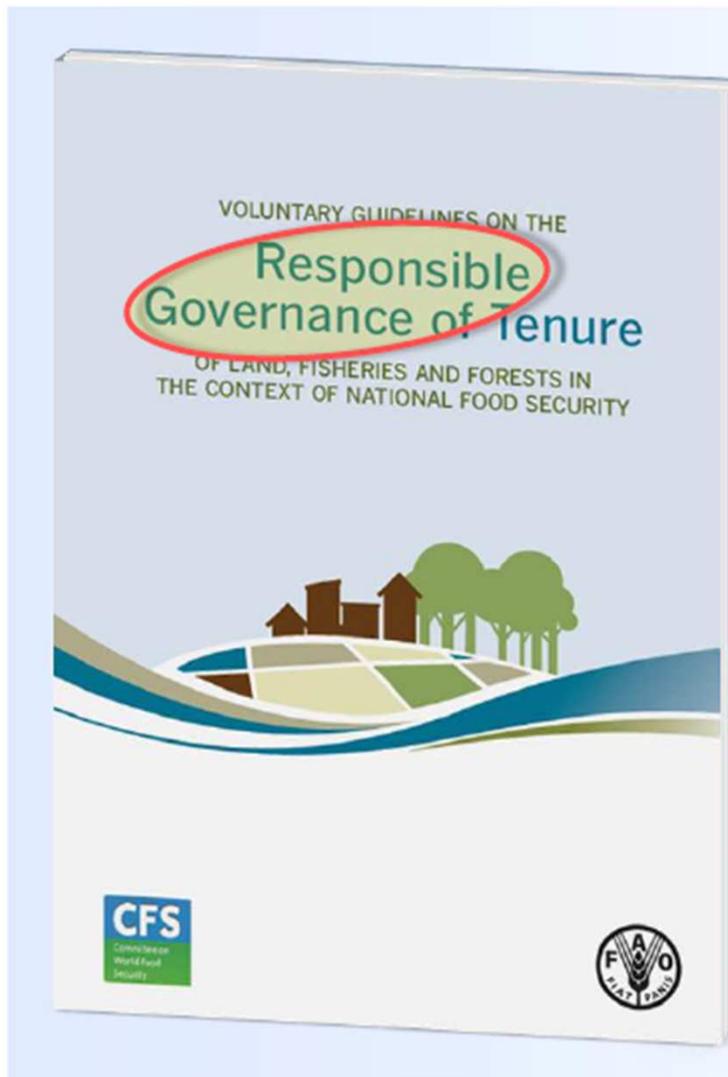




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**Governance**

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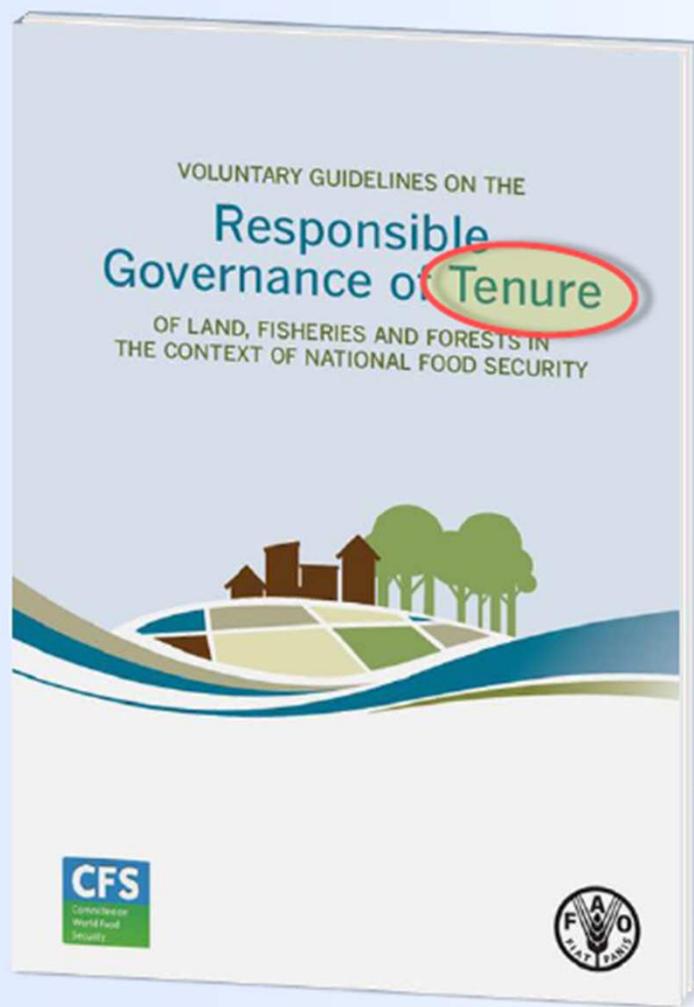


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## Responsible Governance

is about doing the right thing  
and doing it well.

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## Tenure

How people get access to natural resources.

Who can use what resources, for how long, and under what conditions.

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# Why Do We Need to Improve the Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests

## Land:

Land tenure is embedded in political, economic and social relations

People with insecure land tenure are marginalized and vulnerable to being evicted from their homes and farms, with women being particularly at risk

Land tenure reforms can provide clarity on existing tenure rights, reduce socio-economic inequalities and foster more stable societies

## Fisheries:

Improving the governance of tenure of fisheries is particularly relevant for small-scale fishers whose livelihoods depend on these resources



# Why Do We Need to Improve the Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests

## Forests:

Forest tenure arrangements in some countries are often complex and a mixture of rights can co-exist in space and time and may apply to specific products

The people who depend on forests for their livelihoods often do not have legal use rights, and customary systems of tenure of forest resources are not recognized in many countries

[Secure forest tenure is a fundamental element in achieving improved livelihoods and sustainable forest management](#)

Women are often primary users of forest resources for food condiments, medicine, fuelwood and income

# To improve governance we need to be guided by the Principles

## General Principles

1. Recognize and respect all legitimate tenure right holders and their rights
2. Safeguard legitimate tenure rights against threats and infringements
3. Promote and facilitate the enjoyment of legitimate tenure rights
4. Provide access to justice to deal with infringements of legitimate tenure
5. Prevent tenure disputes, violent conflicts and corruption

## Principles of implementation

1. Human Dignity
2. Non-discrimination
3. Equity and justice
4. ...(11)



## For a Sustainable Future, The Governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests requires Responsible Governance

Responsible governance ensures that policies and rules result in equitable and secure access to land, fisheries and forests

Responsible governance requires that formal recognition is given to all tenure rights that are considered legitimate by society

Responsible governance results in an administration of tenure that responds effectively to the needs of all citizens

Responsible governance improves transparency and standards

Vinaka...

Responsible governance