

NAURU

LAND

(Government focal point: Department of Lands and Survey)

The planning and development of land is captured in the NSDS policy framework and implementation strategy as integral to the economic and social goals of Government through policy initiatives in the areas of: mining and rehabilitation; domestic production and sustainable livelihood; private sector development and investment; and public sector management. Government's approach to continue to engage wider stakeholders should make its land development policies inclusive. With the intention to strengthen public management systems and processes, land administration is being earmarked as a priority area for institutional strengthening.

The Nauru Land Committee Ordinance Act 1952 provides the legislative framework for land ownership; the Lands Committee being the adjudicating authority on land ownership and disputes therein. The Lands Committee comprises selected chiefs or elders from the districts. Land ownership by Nauruans is basically guaranteed under the Act, with women's entitlements and access protected. Land development is governed under the Lands Act 1968, which ensures proper leasing arrangements and specifically requires rehabilitation of extracted or mined land. Demographic changes in the last 30 years and its implications on landowning units and boundaries will also need to be taken into account. The main issue now is the strengthening of the land registration and administration system which is primarily driven by the Lands Committee.