

# Standard for Land Administration Approved by ISO

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**The Land Administration Domain Model (LADM)** was approved as an official ISO Standard on 1 November 2012. The proposal for this standard was submitted by the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG) to the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) almost five years ago

This is a milestone in the development of land administration systems. Some 75% of the people-to-land relationships worldwide (about 4.5 billion cases) are not documented. With a growing population, this situation results in land disputes, land grabbing and neglect of the rights of local people. There is an urgent need worldwide for proper land administration systems and standards in land information.

Land administration standards are needed for purposes of initial data acquisition, data maintenance and information exchange. Experience shows that it is no easy task to design and set up a land administration system, and the necessary modelling expertise is lacking in many countries. It should also be noted that such systems contain high volumes of data. The LADM is a common standard for the land administration domain. It will stimulate the development of software applications and will accelerate the implementation of proper land administration, which will support sustainable development.

The LADM covers the basic information-related components of land administration (including those over water and land, and elements above and below the Earth's surface). The standard provides an abstract conceptual model, with four packages relating to:

- parties: people and organizations
- basic administrative units, (ownership and use) rights, responsibilities and restrictions
- spatial units: parcels, and the legal space of buildings and utility networks
- spatial sources (surveying) and spatial representations (geometry and topology).

The LADM defines a terminology for land administration, based on various national and international systems, and this is kept as simple as possible in order to be useful in practice. This terminology allows a shared description of different formal or informal practices and procedures in various jurisdictions. The standard further provides a basis for national and regional profiles, and enables land administration information from different sources to be combined in a coherent manner.

The LADM can integrate different forms of tenure, this can be formal and customary types of tenure, as well as informal tenure



Editorial Committee of the ISO19152 (photo: Bjørnhild Sæteløy)

or overlapping land claims. It is already recognized and supported by FAO, UN-HABITAT and several countries. LADM-based software developments have already been initiated in several places. In principle, there is no interference with (national) land administration laws, that could have legal implications.

FIG, ITC, TU Delft and the Dutch Cadastre took the initiative for LADM.

The LADM was developed by experts from more than ten countries worldwide, including representatives from the European Union and UN-HABITAT.

The LADM was accepted unanimously by the participating ISO members, who were responsible for the preparation of the standard.

A workshops on cadastral modeling have been held at ITC in March 2003, in Bamberg, Germany, December 2004 and in Rotterdam, The Netherlands in July 2012. The next LADM workshop will be organised in September 2013. More details will follow ■

The standard can now be purchased at the ISO website: [www.iso.org/iso/home/search.htm?qt=19152&sort=rel&type=simple&published=on](http://www.iso.org/iso/home/search.htm?qt=19152&sort=rel&type=simple&published=on)