

UN-GGIM:Americas
REGIONAL COMMITTEE OF UNITED NATIONS ON GLOBAL GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION MANAGEMENT FOR THE AMERICAS

UNDERSTANDING FELA: The Global Framework for Effective Land Administration

UN-GGIM:Américas Land Administration Working Group

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Framework for Effective Land Administration (FELA)

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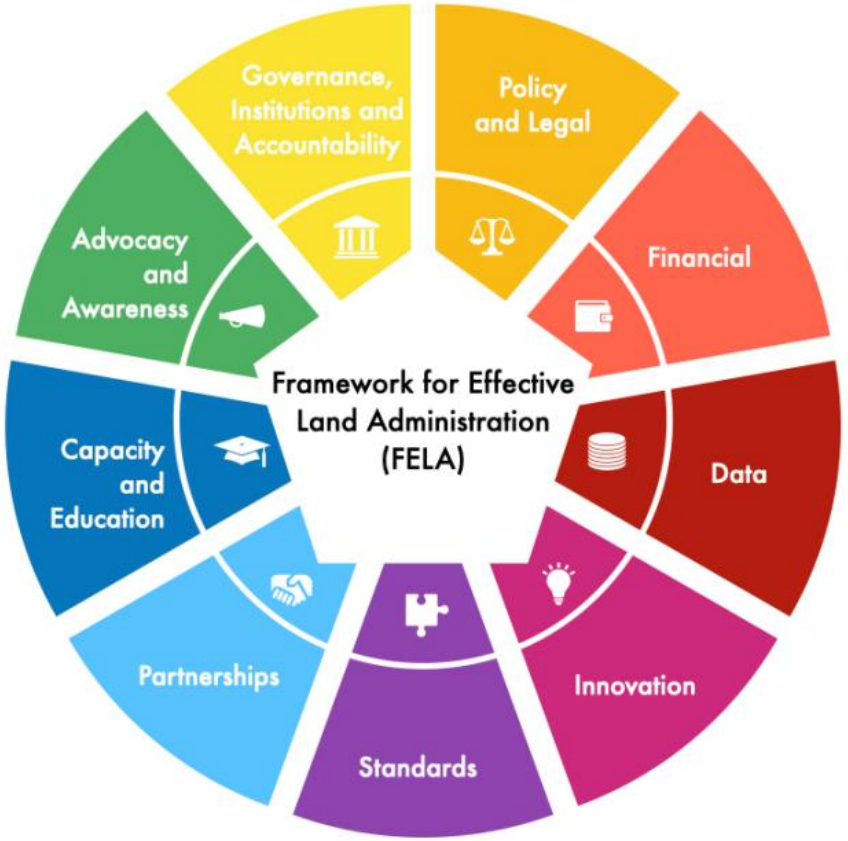
Framework for Effective Land Administration

Approved by the United Nations in 2020

FELA is the UN-endorsed reference for building modern, people-centred land administration systems.

It is built on the nine strategic pathways of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-GGIM – IGIF).

It guides countries at the global, national and local levels toward secure tenure and sustainable land use.



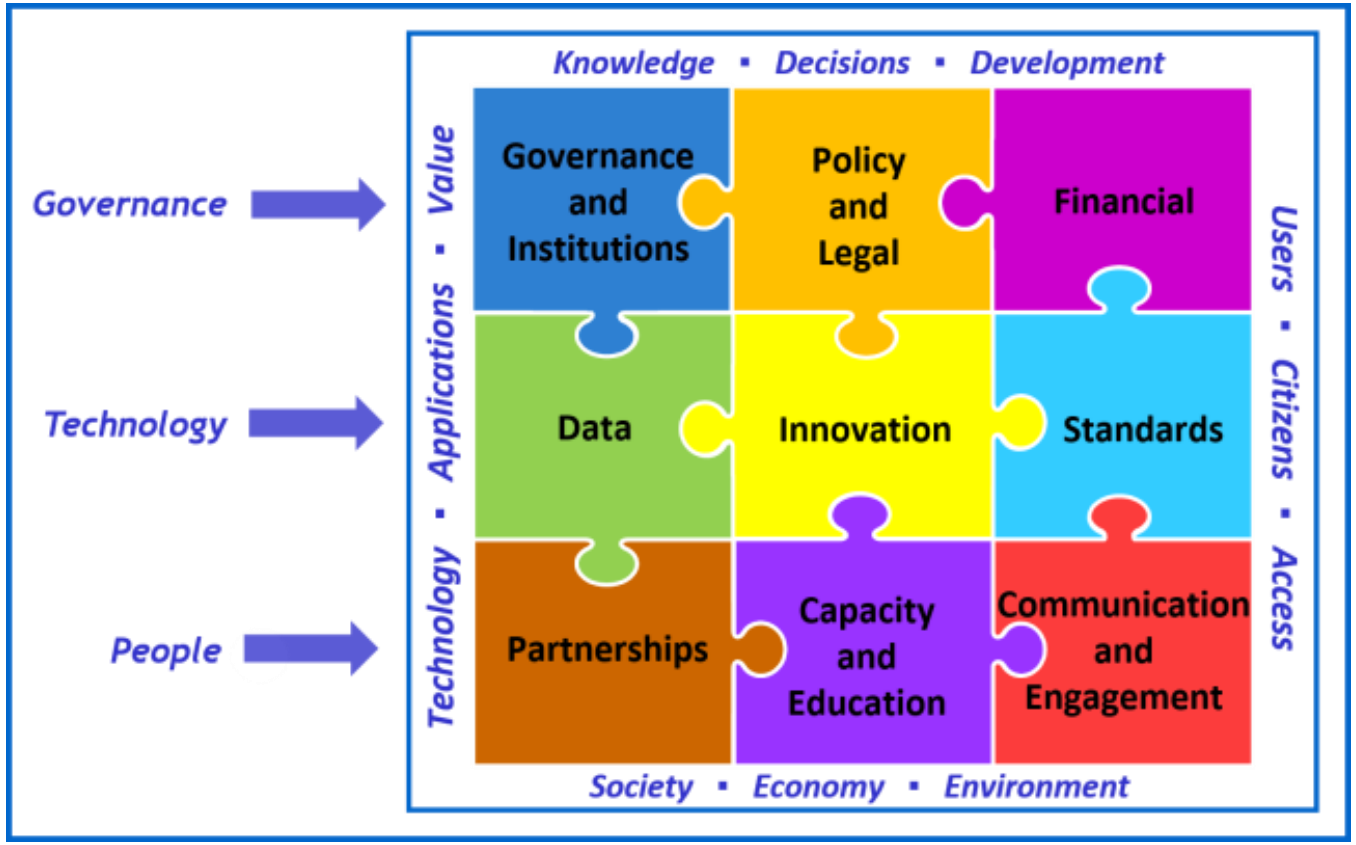
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What is FELA?

A comprehensive set of UN guidelines and standards to promote and support effective land administration at the global, national and local levels.

- Ensure secure land tenure and equitable access to land.
- Foster sustainable land use and economic development.
- Support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Based on the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-GGIM – IGIF).

The nine strategic pathways (UN-GGIM – IGIF)



FELA translates the IGIF into land administration.

The nine pathways move from Governance and Policy, through Financial, Data, Innovation and Standards, to Partnerships, Capacity and Advocacy.

Together they provide a holistic roadmap adaptable to each country's circumstances and priorities.

I Governance, Institutions & Accountability

OBJECTIVE

Establish strong legal and policy foundations for land administration systems.

KEY FOCUS

- Clear property rights and land-use laws.
- Legal frameworks that recognise all tenure types, including customary and informal.
- Policies enabling fair land access and sustainable development.

CONCRETE EXAMPLE

Adopt a national land policy and designate a lead agency with a clear inter-institutional coordination mandate.

II Policy & Legal

OBJECTIVE

Build effective institutions to manage land-related matters.

KEY FOCUS

- Create or strengthen institutions for registration, cadastral mapping, valuation and dispute resolution.
- Ensure clear roles and coordination across local, regional and national levels.
- Build capacity within institutions for sustainability.

CONCRETE EXAMPLE

Modernise the cadastre and registry law to recognise all tenure types, including informal and customary.

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Pathway III

III Financial

OBJECTIVE

Ensure sustainable financing for land administration.

KEY FOCUS

- Develop funding mechanisms to maintain and improve the systems.
- Use land-related revenues, such as property taxes and fees, to sustain the processes.
- Engage the private sector and explore public–private partnerships (PPP).

CONCRETE EXAMPLE

Design a fee and property-tax model so the cadastre and registry fund their own upkeep.

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Pathway IV

IV Data

OBJECTIVE

Foster reliable land information through effective data governance.

KEY FOCUS

- Establish policies for collecting, storing, accessing and sharing land data.
- Ensure data interoperability across sectors.
- Promote transparency and open access to land information (FFPLA).

CONCRETE EXAMPLE

Adopt the LADM data model (ISO 19152) and a policy for land-data interoperability and access.

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Pathway V

V

Innovation

OBJECTIVE

Integrate technology and innovation.

KEY FOCUS

- Adopt modern technologies for land administration.
- Use satellite imagery and geospatial data to improve mapping and monitoring.
- Explore automation and AI to streamline registration and transactions.

CONCRETE EXAMPLE

Map parcels at scale using satellite imagery and fit-for-purpose mobile capture.

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Pathway VI

VI Standards

OBJECTIVE

Implement and adhere to global land administration standards.

KEY FOCUS

- Align national systems with international standards and best practices.
- Ensure consistency in land-data collection, management and reporting across regions.
- Encourage transparency and quality assurance in services.

CONCRETE EXAMPLE

Adopt ISO/OGC standards and quality-assurance procedures for cadastral data.

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Pathway VII

VII Partnerships

OBJECTIVE

Promote collaboration and partnerships in land administration.

KEY FOCUS

- Foster partnerships across public and private sectors, international organisations and academia.
- Share knowledge, best practices and resources globally and regionally.
- Collaborate on cross-border management and innovations for sustainable development.

CONCRETE EXAMPLE

Formalise agreements with academia and the private sector for digitisation, R&D and capacity building.

VIII Capacity & Education

OBJECTIVE

Build capacity and provide education in land administration.

KEY FOCUS

- Invest in professional development and training programmes.
- Establish education and certification programmes to strengthen technical and managerial skills.
- Encourage continuous learning and adaptability to new technologies.

CONCRETE EXAMPLE

Roll out, with universities, a national training and certification plan for cadastre and registry professionals.

IX

Advocacy & Awareness

OBJECTIVE

Advance advocacy and awareness for land administration.

KEY FOCUS

- Build stakeholder acceptance and support through effective communication.
- Ensure active stakeholder participation throughout design and implementation.
- Improve adoption by involving communities from the outset.

CONCRETE EXAMPLE

Run awareness campaigns on tenure rights (focusing on women and youth) and secure the political mandate.

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Why does FELA matter?

A United Nations document exists to modernise land administration.

It is a living document: an updated version with more implementation guidance is already underway. Today it is already a solid basis to raise the topic with authorities and start acting.

International backing

Legitimises reforms and aligns the country with a UN-endorsed standard (UN-GGIM).

Brings stakeholders together

Convenes government, academia and international partners; produces action plans and expert networks.

Shared language & vision

A common reference that connects institutions, sectors and levels of government.

A roadmap to prioritise

Turns a complex challenge into nine clear pathways: helps diagnose, sequence reforms and prioritise investment.

Leverage for national efforts

Political backing to justify budgets, mobilise resources and coordinate institutions.

Learn from global experience

Lets you benchmark and adopt international good practice, without starting from scratch.

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Thank you

Understanding FELA — the global framework for effective land administration.