



NELGA GOOD PRACTICES:

The Conference on Land Policy In Africa (CLPA)

The Network of Excellence on Land Governance in Africa (NELGA) is a partnership of leading African universities and research institutions with proven leadership in education, training and research on land governance. Currently NELGA has more than **70 partner institutions** in over 40 countries and is organized in 6 regional and 1 technical nodes supported by a Secretariat.



Background

The Conference on Land Policy in Africa (CLPA) is organised biennially by the African Land Policy Centre (ALPC), a joint initiative of the African Union Commission (AUC), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), and the African Development Bank (AfDB). The goal is to **deepen capacity for land policy in Africa** through improved access to knowledge and information on land policymaking and implementation. In particular, the CLPA is a platform for **presenting research findings** and focusing the attention of a comprehensive range of stakeholders on the issues and status of land policy development, implementation and monitoring in Africa.

The CLPA also provides a **unique opportunity to showcase emerging and promising practices** and facilitate networking. Conference participants include researchers, academicians, governments (including parliamentarians and judicial officers), women and youth organisations, traditional authorities, farmers, civil society, private sector, land practitioners and development partners.

The CLPA also represents a platform to **share local knowledge and know-how** which is also used to present **research findings on current land issues and challenges** that help achieving the objectives of Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063.

CLPA Editions

The first edition of CLPA was held from 11 - 14 November 2014 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia under the theme **“The next decade of land policy in Africa: ensuring agricultural development and inclusive growth”**. This theme was related to the African Union declaration of 2014 as the **“Year of Agriculture and Food Security in Africa”**. The Conference provided a great opportunity for showcasing emerging and promising practices and facilitating networking among land experts and land professionals in Africa. It gathered close to 400 participants.

The Second Edition of CLPA, which centred on youth, land, and employment, was held from 14 to 17 November 2017 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The event was organised under the theme **“The Africa We Want: Achieving Socioeconomic Transformation through Inclusive and Equitable Access to Land by the Youth”**, aligning with the African Union’s designation of 2017 as the Year of Youth, themed **“Harnessing Africa’s Demographic Dividend through Investment in Youth”**.

Around 450 participants attended the conference, which opened with a strong call for **responsible land management** to ensure the well-being of both present and future generations across the continent. Key issues addressed included land use

planning and governance, land certification systems, technological advancements in agriculture, conflict resolution, enhanced access to land for women and youth, and environmental sustainability.

The Third edition of CLPA, the conference, was held from 25 to 29 November 2019 in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, centred on the theme **"Winning the Fight against Corruption in the Land Sector: Sustainable Pathway for Africa's Transformation."** This theme aligned with the African Union's 2018 declaration of the Anti-Corruption Year.

In addition to the traditional conference format, this edition introduced masterclasses and leveraged social media to engage a wider audience. The session contributed to **strengthening and refining action** plans aimed at **tackling corruption in the land sector**. It also called on Member States to pursue essential reforms, drawing on the conference's recommendations, including the urgent need to invest in high-quality human resources within the land sector.

The Fourth Edition of the CLPA, the Conference was held from 1 to 4 November 2021 in Rwanda under the theme **"Land Governance for Safeguarding Art, Culture and Heritage Towards the Africa We Want."** The event was conducted virtually, with the exception of the opening and closing sessions, which were broadcast from Kigali.

This edition focused on promoting innovation and generating social and economic value through **creativity, talent, intellectual property, artistic expression, and cultural entrepreneurship**, objectives aligned with the African Union's 2021 theme: **"Arts, Culture and Heritage: Levers for Building the Africa We Want,"** as well as the aspirations of Agenda 2063.

The Fifth Edition of the CLPA, the conference on Land Policy in Africa took place from 21 to 24 November 2023 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, under the theme **"Promoting Sustainable Land Governance in Africa for Accelerating Implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement (AfCFTA)."** The event was delivered in a hybrid format, combining virtual sessions with in-person participation.

The primary objective of the 2023 CLPA was to deepen commitment and strengthen capacities for **land policy formulation, implementation, and monitoring across Africa**. This was pursued through enhanced access to knowledge and evidence in support of sound, data-driven policymaking. The chosen theme closely aligned with the African Union's 2023 focus on the **"Acceleration of AfCFTA Implementation."**

The CLPA has grown from a technical gathering of researchers at the African Union into a significant political event, leaving a lasting imprint at the policy level within Member States. Its format has evolved over the years, with the introduction of elements such as **masterclasses and journalist trainings**. Notably, each edition of the CLPA has consistently concluded with a call to action, urging all stakeholders to demonstrate **greater commitment to advancing land governance in Africa**.

Summary Table of the CLPA Editions

The table below lists the different editions of the Conference on Land Policy in Africa (CLPA):

Edition	Theme	Date	Location
1	The next decade of land policy in Africa: ensuring agricultural development and inclusive growth	11-14 November 2014	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
2	The Africa We Want: Achieving socioeconomic transformation through inclusive and equitable access to land by the youth	14-17 November 2017	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
3	Winning the fight against Corruption in the Land Sector: Sustainable Pathway for Africa's Transformation	25-29 November 2019	Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire
4	Land governance for safeguarding art, culture and heritage towards the Africa We Want	1-4 November 2021	Kigali, Rwanda
5	Promoting Sustainable Land Governance in Africa for Accelerating Implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area agreement (AfCFTA)	21-24 November 2023	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
6	"Justice for Africans and People of African Descent Through Reparations."	10 to 14 November 2025	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia





African Land Policy Centre (ALPC)



The African Land Policy Centre (ALPC) is a joint initiative of the African Union Commission (AUC), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the African Development Bank (AfDB) that was launched in 2017, as a predecessor to the Land Policy Initiative (LPI). The role of the ALPC is to facilitate and coordinate the implementation of the AU Declaration on Land Issues and Challenges by member states in accordance with the Framework & Guidelines (F&G) as outlined in the AU Agenda on Land.

ALPC Vision: A peaceful and prosperous Africa realized through equitable access, efficient and sustainable utilization of land.

ALPC Mission: To ensure all land users have equitable access to land and security of all bundles of land rights, by facilitating effective partnerships, dialogue and capacity building for participatory and consultative land policy formulation and implementation, as well as efficient and transparent land administration in both customary and statutory jurisdictions.

ALPC Goal: To assist Member States in the implementation of the declaration on land issues and challenges in Africa in accordance with the Framework and Guidelines on land policy in Africa to achieve socio-economic development, peace and security, and environmental sustainability..



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