

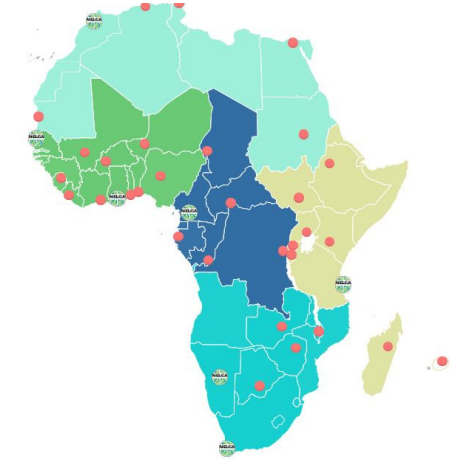


# STORIES of SUCCESS

*Capacity Development  
Program*



# THE NETWORK OF EXCELLENCE ON LAND GOVERNANCE IN AFRICA



Weak land governance and insecure land rights are still major development challenges for Africa. The African Land Policy Centre (ALPC) has been mandated to spearhead the implementation of the African Union's Agenda on Land which aims at improving land policy in a regional context.

Although a growing number of countries show the political will to realize these initiatives, their implementation at the country level remains at an early stage. Many countries lack the human and institutional capacity required to implement sustainable land policies. One of the main reasons for this lack is the insufficient quality of academic programmes at African universities and institutions of higher learning.

To strengthen human and institutional capacities for implementing the AU Agenda on Land, ALPC has established a Network of Excellence on Land Governance in Africa (NELGA) in cooperation with Germany and other partners.

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 over 70 partner institutions with tentacles in over 40 countries.

NELGA provides academic support and scholarships through DAAD to students to further their skills and knowledge in the land governance space in Africa.

As future land policymakers and land practitioners, the scholarship supports the AU Agenda on Land by bridging capacity gaps in the land governance space toward the economic and social development of the continent.



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### **Capacity Building**

NELGA works to improve land-related curricula in graduate and post-graduate training courses in quantity and quality. The network provides and facilitates academic education and training for African land professionals and practitioners.

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### **Research**

NELGA promotes research on land policy and land governance for Africa that is solution oriented, participatory, evidence-based and able to reach policy makers. The research component of NELGA aims at supplying application-oriented findings and feeding these into the political dialogue.

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### **Research-Policy Linkage**

Develop a repository for data, indicators and information, in close cooperation with the ALPC, the RECs and governments and promote knowledge management, dissemination and networking in support of land policy and governance in Africa by enhancing the community of practice for land policy experts.

# WHAT WE DO?

# INFLUENCING LAND DEBATE

Martie Mushaukwa , NELGA/DAAD Scholarship

**“At the beginning of my scholarship, I had little knowledge of research. I struggled a lot in conceptualising ideas, however, due to many events organised under the DAAD/NELGA scholarship programme, my understanding of many general land administration concepts has improved.”**



Celina Kafute Awala,  
NELGA/DAAD Scholarship, PhD Candidate

Since graduation, Martie has been working for an agricultural bank in Namibia, where he seats at the forefront of the development, implementation, and guidance of real estate actions within the bank.

As the demand for private investment in land and real estate steadily increases in Africa, Martie is one of the key leading professionals in the field of real estate. He provides the overall framework for real estate valuation, approaches and practice in Namibia and his advice influences decision-making on real estate approaches for the bank.

Celina’s research interest lies around public sector geo-information management, land tenure management and governance. She lauds the scholarship program’s exposure to diverse quality and relevant information and experts as relevant and timely for the continent.

As a prolific writer and researcher, Celina hopes to start a programme to train young Namibians in research methodologies and is optimistic to see the increased use of spatial data in decision making at the lower levels of public administration.



**“My experience with DAAD and NELGA was great. The experience enhanced my professional career as it made me more attractive as a job candidate and increased employment possibilities as an expert in the field of land administration and commercialization.”**

# BECOMING A PIONEER RESEARCHER

– Frank Mintah, NELGA/DAAD Scholarship



Frank was a NELGA–DAAD scholar at Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), with an MPhil degree in Planning and Land Governance. After completing his Master's in 2019, he worked with KNUST as a Research and Project Assistant before moving on as a PhD researcher at the Institute of Geography at the University of Bern, in Switzerland, on Geography and Sustainable Development.

As part of a broader Sustain-Forest Project, his research focuses on the governance arrangements that work for sustainable forest use and management in agricultural landscapes of West Africa, which the European Research Commission funds. He believes the knowledge and skills he gained through the NELGA program were extremely relevant to the research he is now undertaking.

**“It gave me memories that will last for a lifetime. The programme offered the opportunity to complement my knowledge in land use planning with the governance arrangements that influence land-use decisions and land-use outcomes. Within my scholarship period, I also obtained the DAAD short-term research stay scholarship to undertake a research residency in Germany, at the Chair of Land Management, at the Technical University of Munich (TUM). The scholarship again allowed me to join international conferences, including the Conference on Land Policy in Africa in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) and the Sustainable Development for Africa Seminar at TUM (Munich, Germany), among many other in-country research and networking events.”**

# A DREAM COME TRUE

Frieda Nangolo, NELGA/DAAD Scholarship

Rebecca Milamo,  
NELGA/DAAD Scholarship

**"While enabling me to attain my Master's degree, this scholarship has exposed me to different international conferences and workshops, expanded my network locally and internationally, and enhanced my research and communication skills through various training and seminars."**



An optimist by nature, Frieda believed that hard work and a positive attitude were the keys to getting a NELGA-DAAD scholarship. She is the first graduate within her scholarship group in 2020 with a Master's degree at Namibian University of Science and Technology (NUST) Department of Land and Property Sciences (DLPS). The scholarship covered Frieda's tuition, personal needs, and study materials. This came in handy, as she balanced her studies while having a full-time job, running an online master's degree concurrently and her family life.

Through the NELGA scholarship programme, Rebecca acquired the required qualifications that enabled her to join Ardhi University as a tutor, researcher and consultant. This opportunity created a good platform for sharing her knowledge and skills with other upcoming young stars who have an interest in land-related issues. It also enabled her to use her new expertise in researching and publishing to share or exchange knowledge with the general public and address some of the land-related challenges faced in the country. Hence, she considers this to be the best way of giving back to the community.



**"I got a golden opportunity to further my studies with a scholarship from DAAD for a Master's in Spatial Sciences."**

**"My experience studying with DAAD was a good one. It challenged me at some points as it brought out a different side of me which I never thought I have."**

# CELEBRATING THE PIONEER CLASS OF THE NEW NELGA LAND GOVERNANCE MASTERS AT UGB

In 2021, twenty students from across Africa made history as the first set of people to be enrolled in the new Master's Degree program on Land Governance and Territorial Management at Gaston Berger University of Saint-Louis (UGB) in Senegal. The Master's program, introduced with the help of NELGA, provides a platform to develop adequate human and technical capacities to support the development and implementation of land policies in Africa. The students are subject to an interactive and interdisciplinary pedagogy regime with continuous personal follow-up of the programme's leaders.

Prof Ibrahim Diallo, Coordinator of NELGA Francophone West Africa and Professor of Public Law at UGB, expressed his delight at the new academic program welcomed by the academic and professional world at the sub-regional and continental levels. The course considers the region's peculiarities and the AU endorsed Guidelines for the Development of Curricula on Land Governance in Africa.

The academic program provides NELGA scholarships to the enrolled students. It ends with a mandatory internship that concretizes the orientation of the master students towards professional practice with practical experiences on topics such as land systems, land legislation, domains, spatial planning, land market, land information systems, territorial cooperation and planning, environment and climate change, impact studies, land conflicts and others.

The program prepares students for the employment market post-graduation as the internship facilitates the positioning and placement of young people in the public or private sector.

**"West Africa's diversity in terms of language, colonial history, political regimes and stages of economic development has resulted in pluralistic land tenure regimes. The Master's program attempts to address such land governance issues in West Africa and offers vocational education, articulating theoretical and practical training in land governance and land management. This academic program is an asset to the region and the continent as it integrates a review of the past and possibilities for the future by investing in the young people of today with key knowledge useful for the economic and social development of continent." - Prof. Diallo**



# GIVING BACK TO THE LAND COMMUNITY

- Nancy Kankam, NELGA/DAAD Scholarship



Nancy was awarded a NELGA-DAAD scholarship to further her studies towards an MPhil Planning academic program at KNUST in 2017.

Since graduating, Nancy has been working in the non-profit sector. She is keen on promoting research-policy linkages toward solving development problems. She applied lessons from the NELGA-DAAD program in real-time post-graduation settings. In January 2022, she organized a brainstorming session among land stakeholders and DAAD alumni in Ghana to connect and communicate research to practice through a grant she had applied for and secured through DAAD.

Nancy hopes to continue working in the development space and be an influencer for a safe, inclusive, and sustainable society.

**“My experience with DAAD and NELGA was fantastic, with ceaseless imprints in my professional life. Thanks to the DAAD – NELGA scholarship, I broadened my network and improved my knowledge and skills, particularly in research. They provided the foundation for me to conceptualize, design, initiate, implement, and share knowledge, actions, and policy recommendations for sustainable development in West Africa and Africa as a whole. Particularly, the opportunity provided by the DAAD – NELGA scholarship exposed me to global and regional issues in the development field and seasoned practitioners and researchers in the field. These experiences have shaped my perspectives and practice.”**







## **Najum Juma / Researcher and Urban Planner**

I got a job as a researcher, and land consultant at Ardhi Institute Morogoro in Tanzania after graduating from his NELGA-DAAD sponsored MSc program in Urban Planning and Management from Ardhi University. It was a great pleasure to see, apply and be selected for the NELGA-DAAD scholarship to study a Master's program in Urban Planning and Management, especially in the face of many land challenges. The program helped me to understand current land issues, its history, available tools and how to be part of the solution for the future.



## **George Tonderai Mudimu / Postdoctoral Fellow**

I had my first encounter with NELGA Southern Africa Node in February 2018. I was a research intern at the Sam Moyo African Institute for Agrarian Studies (SMAIAS) and was nominated to attend the inaugural NELGA course in Land Governance and Corruption in Namibia. This course was quite useful for me for it delved into practical and theoretical issues on land governance, which was the focus of my doctoral research. Some of the key lessons I learned from this course I utilized in my doctoral thesis write up as well as in my journal articles, more specifically my article on land leasing in post land reform Zimbabwe and on other land governance-related works.



## **Germain Muvunyi / Lecturer and Academic Researcher**

NELGA gave me the chance to attend and present my research results at conferences in Tanzania, Ethiopia and Rwanda. My research interest includes Remote Sensing & GIS for Environment, Natural Resource Management, Land Administration and Management, LULC/Landscape characterization & climate change studies. As a young scientist and researcher with a lot of dreams and aspirations, delivering a scientific talk and getting feedback or comments is hugely important for one's career. Selected programs were strongly compatible with my career interests.



**WANT TO KNOW  
MORE?**

**The Network of Excellence for Land Governance in Africa (NELGA)**

**African Land Policy Center (ALPC)**

**United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)**

**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

**Website: [www.nelga.org](http://www.nelga.org) | Twitter: [NELGA\\_AU](https://twitter.com/NELGA_AU) | Facebook: [NELGA\\_Secretariat](https://www.facebook.com/NELGA_Secretariat)**