

The background features several overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of green. A large, light green shape starts from the top right and extends towards the center. A darker green shape starts from the top left and extends towards the center. A medium green shape starts from the bottom left and extends towards the center. A dark green shape starts from the bottom left and extends towards the center. The text is positioned in the upper left quadrant of the page.

NEX WEBINAR REPORT

DATE
1/4/2021

Summary

Title	Fixing Land Administration in South Africa: A Case Study of Hybrid Municipal Land Governance
Date	September 30, 2021
Number of participants	57
Chair	Prof. Andries Du Toit
Presenters	Dr. Gaynor Paradza And Taki Sithagu
Languages	English and French
Platform	Virtual, zoom
Time	13:00 pm: 14:10 pm (EAT)

Introduction

NELGA, considering the capacity gap in land governance and the inadequacy of engagement platforms for land practitioners in Africa, created a knowledge exchange series for its members.

The online Webinar presents an opportunity to gather with other network members to knowledge exchange sessions to discuss viable ways to achieve the AU agenda on land. These sessions also provide the opportunity to bridge the capacity gap and engage with land governance programmes and institutions to learn new tactics, share experiences, challenges, and innovations from Africa and beyond.

Following up on this, The Africa Land Policy Center (ALPC), through NELGA, held its first NELGA Knowledge Exchange (NEX) webinar on September 30, 2021. The Webinar hosted by the NELGA technical node for Southern Africa, the Institute for Poverty Land and Agrarian Studies (PLAAS), University of the Western Cape, was supported by GIZ's Strengthening Advisory Capacities for Land Governance in Africa (SLGA) program.

The Webinar provided an overview of the challenges of South Africa's dysfunctional land administration system, which is marred by deep dualism that leaves an estimated 60% of South Africans without de facto institutional support for informal and customary land rights. It also highlighted insights gained from ongoing attempts to address the challenges.

The Webinar discussed:

1. The colonial origins of South Africa's dualistic land administration system and the practical consequences.
2. A case study of hybrid land management institutions that have evolved in response to experienced dysfunction, highlighting both the opportunities and the risks involved.

3. Findings from a pilot project exploring the scope for reform of dysfunctional systems through processes of social dialogue and institutional learning.

Conducted virtually on ZOOM the Webinar brought together 57 participants from across Africa, including Chiefs of stakeholder organizations, academics, land experts, doctoral students, and professionals working in the purview of land governance and administration.

Program and speakers

Organized in both English and French, NEX was chaired by Prof. Andries Du Toit from PLAAS, with presentations from Dr. Gaynor Paradza, a land expert from public affairs research institute, and Taki Sithagu lecturer at Wits University and a Ph.D. candidate.

Prof. Andries commenced the Webinar with an opening statement where he addressed the meetings objective, the panellist and provided a foundational synopsis on South Africa's land administration system, technical and political concerns, the tenure system, constitutional and customary land rights.

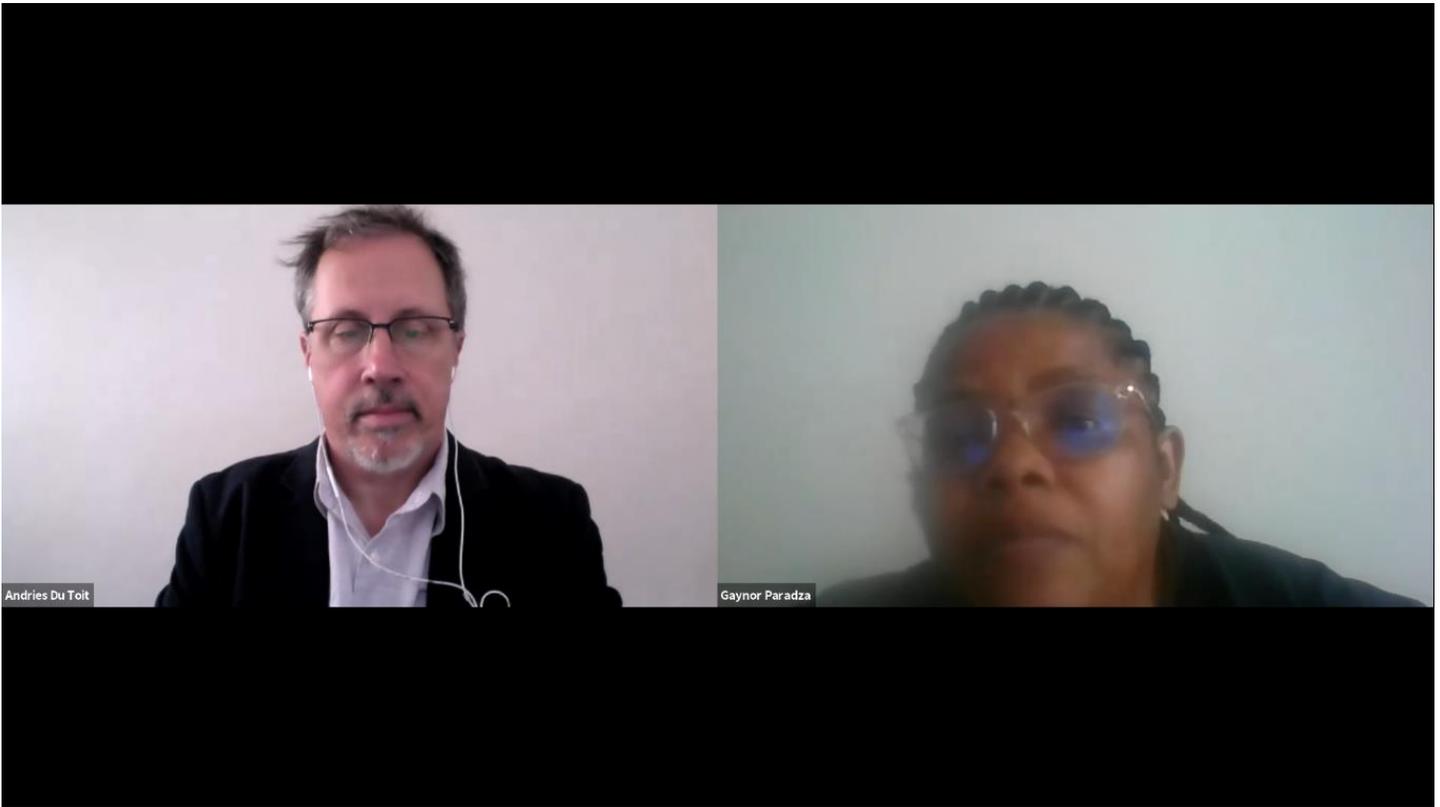


Dr. Joan Kagwanja, Chief of ALPC, provided a welcome statement in which she expressed her delight to participate in the Webinar by stating its significance for participants engaged, in addition, she stressed how ALPC is glad to work with every stakeholder.



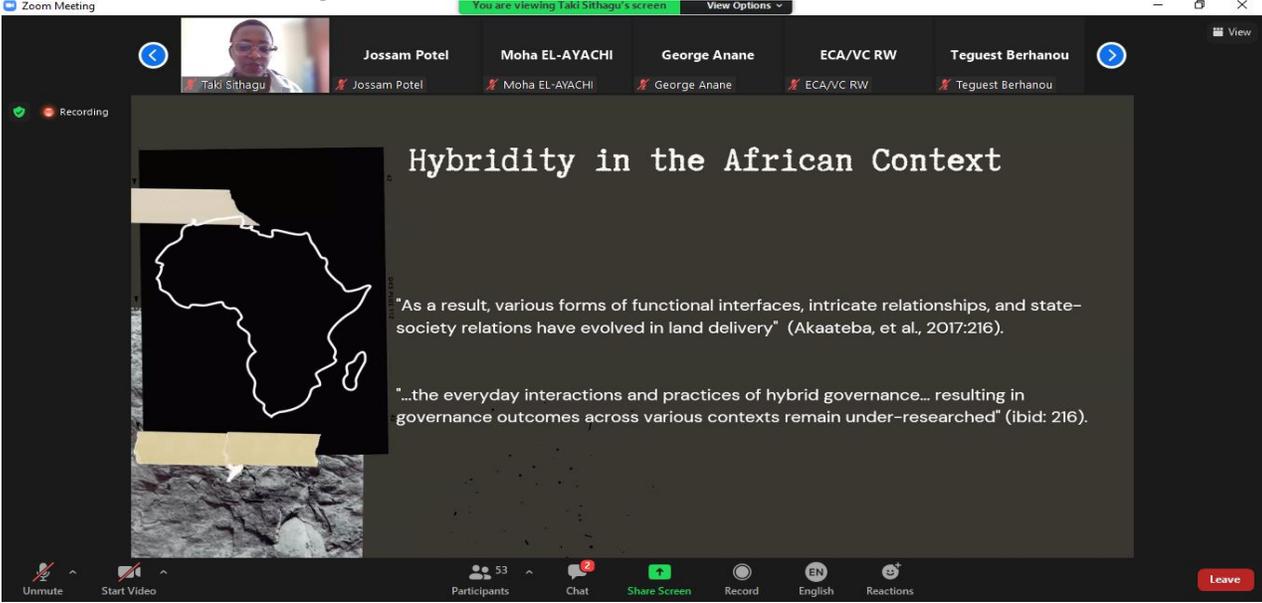
Dr. Gaynor highlighted the context of its diagnostic project jointly implemented with PLAAS and the Public Affairs Institute. Both institutions are working on a project to achieve an integrated land administration system in South Africa. The initiative has managed to come up with a complex understanding of the problems of South African land administration and some ideas how it can be fixed. These ideas are implemented in the first phase of the project in line with the findings of the diagnostics on land administration challenges in the country.

In the presentation, Dr. Gaynor used practical experience and an anecdote from her own life to emphasize her point, which allowed attendees to comprehend the difficulties faced clearly. She didn't just address the issues but suggested necessary changes and responsibilities that stakeholders must undertake. In the context of the initiative, her presentation also shed light on the benefits and problems of land administration, fixing the challenges of land administration through land information management system, understanding the roles of formal and informal institutions, which are municipalities and traditional leaders.



The Webinar also featured a cogent presentation from Taki Situgu titled "Hybrid land administration in rural municipalities (South Africa)" in which she covered a wide range of topics, beginning with hybrid land administration and how it functions in the African context with case study examples from Ghana, Nigeria, and South Africa, and then moving on to hybrid land systems, multiple land systems in rural municipalities, hybrid land administration, and its role players.

Since case studies were a recurring theme in her presentation, Taki closed her presentation with a case study on hybrid land management in the Kwamhlanga region of South Africa as ideal for for engagement and how such can be replicated across board.



Conclusion

The Webinar provided the opportunity for further engagement and interrogation of the presentation with reviews that suggested mainstreaming gender in the research, ensuring neo-customary lines are really for the benefit of all and not some, review power dynamics, the use of technology and data, among others.