



NELGA GOOD PRACTICES: Development of a Land Management Strategy **for Botswana**

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.



1. Background

In 2009 the **Government of Botswana** moved for a **comprehensive land reform** to deal with some persisted problems/ challenges experienced overtime in land management. Among these problems and challenges include an **inefficient and unfair land administration system** as well as a **lack of transparency** in the system. As a result, the **Ministry of Lands and Water Affairs (MLWA)** in Botswana have commissioned a study to develop a 25-year Land Management Strategy. The Ministry approached the **GIZ-SLGA** to provide technical and financial support for the project. GIZ has contracted two consultants to undertake the study. A first draft of the strategy was **developed in-house** by the staff of MLWA in year 2022. The first draft did not take into consideration all relevant national perspectives and international guidelines and standards. The Ministry therefore found it necessary to develop a **comprehensive land management strategy** that will guide the **implementation of reforms** in the land sector and be the North Star towards an efficient, fair and transparent land delivery system.



Token of appreciation: The NELGA/LMS consultants Mr. Loyd Sungirirai and Dr Odame Larbi with Mr. Mogotsi (MLWA) posing for a photo after a stakeholder feedback workshop held on 16th August 2024.at the Ministry's offices in Gaborone, Botswana

2. Implementation

GIZ engaged two consultants namely a NELGA National Consultant (Team Leader) and a NELGA Regional Consultant (International Expert) to develop the Land Management Strategy. To execute this work effectively, NELGA country consultants and

the NELGA Regional consultant worked very closely with the government of Botswana (represented by the Ministry of Lands and Water Affairs), and other partners, bilateral technical and financial partners (both in-country and external as necessary) and key stakeholder groups in the Botswana land sector.

This work is country-owned and led, and comprised of six (6) stages:

i) Project initiation Workshop

This entails engagement with stakeholders to set the foundation of the project, agree on the objectives, methodology, preparation of the detailed project plan and list stakeholders to be engaged. The MLWA and NELGA country and regional consultants undertook a stakeholder initiation workshop on 21 March 2024 as part of the process for developing the Land Management Strategy. Project initiation document was produced in April 2024. The workshop was followed by a countrywide mission in Botswana for stakeholder engagements on 07-30 May 2024.



Land Management Strategy stakeholder consultation, 21 May 2024, meeting with community representatives (VDC, Councillors and



A Stakeholder initiation workshop with the Land Sector in Gaborone, Botswana on 28 March 2024



Engaging with traditional leaders to harness local knowledge is key to building a robust and inclusive land management strategy, grounded in community values and sustainable practices. Meeting Kgosi Bakgatla Regent, Kgosi Bana Sekai 21 May 2024 in Mochudi Village., Project Manager Ms Tshephang Keaosanya.



Stakeholder engagement in Maun with the Tawana Land Board and community representatives and Kgosi Kgosi of baTawana Kgosi Tawana Moremi II, The District Council Secretary Mr Thatayotlhe Balapi.

ii) Interim report

A mid-project review highlighting progress and any adjustments needed was produced in June 2024. This report also presents a summary of deliberations, findings and tentative recommendations resulting from the engagement mission which was held on 7-30 May 2024.

iii) Draft Land Management Strategy

Development of the Land Management Strategy, its implementation plan, and Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Framework in two stages. The first draft was submitted for review and feedback at a workshop in August 2024. Inputs was used to update the strategy into a second draft LMS.

iv) Validation Workshop

A validation workshop will be organised for the key stakeholders to review and provide inputs for further refinement for the second draft LMS. The consultant with support from the MLWA will facilitate the validation workshop.



Stakeholder Feedback workshop with Land sector and community representative in Gantsi 16 May 2024.



Stakeholder feedback workshop Department of Town and Country Planning Gaborone with the land sector employees on the 13th August 2024

v) Final Land Management Strategy and final documents

The final validated LMS incorporating feedback from the Ministry of Lands and Water Affairs (MLWA) and other key stakeholders. A simplified version for easy understanding will be prepared based on the final document. The final reports by the consultants will be submitted.

vi) Implementation and Monitoring of the LMS

The final stage is the implementation and monitoring of the LMS and will be led by the Government of Botswana.

3. Results and Lessons Learnt

- ✓ Number and composition of stakeholders is sufficient and representative on the findings
- ✓ Several workshops/meetings were held including Stakeholder initiation workshop, Validation Workshop etc.
- ✓ A number of outputs have been produced including; project initiation document, Interim/progress report, Back to Office Report and draft Land Management Strategy.
- ✓ It was quite challenging to adhere to the timelines due to circumstances related to partners and stakeholder which are beyond control, but the ability come up with alternative approaches and flexibility made it possible to achieve objectives.

4. Why is this a good practice

- ✓ This has ability to promote good governance which yields a positive impact to the people's livelihood and the development of the country.
- ✓ This exercise can be replicated to other countries facing similar land related challenges in Southern Africa, Africa and beyond.

5. Conclusion and Recommendation

The strategy identifies land governance related challenges and concerns and proposes various solutions and recommendations of addressing these issues.





Published by

**Strengthening Advisory Capacities for Land
Governance in Africa (SLGA) Programme**

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Responsible

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Governance in Africa (SLGA) Programme
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH**

Design/ Layout

Flow communications

As at

February 2025