



Network of Excellence
on Land Governance in Africa

NELGA Good Practices Trainings & Study Courses

In pursuit of its role to assist Africa Union member states in the implementation of the AU agenda on land, the **Network of Excellence on Land Governance in Africa (NELGA)** builds capacities for transformative land policy processes in Africa. As one of the priority areas for action **NELGA strengthens training opportunities** on land governance offered by African universities, targeting academic personnel, decision-makers and practitioners. As a result NELGA implements a **variety of flexible and targeted training opportunities** all over Africa.

Needs Assessment for Short Course Training on Land Governance in Africa

In 2017 the Institute for Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies (PLAAS) of the University of the Western Cape undertook a “Needs assessment for short course training on land governance in Africa”, with the objective to **identify, prioritize and urgently address** the continent’s capacity gap in land governance.

Based on the assessment study, PLAAS develops and implements **regional trainings for professionally active land policy makers and practitioners**, in collaboration with NELGA nodes and adapted to the realities of regions and countries.

The rapidly changing values, norms and tools in support of land governance in Africa require significant efforts to update the knowledge and upgrade the skills of serving land practitioners and decision-makers, in addition to increasing the efforts to train new land professionals at undergraduate and graduate levels.



Priority Areas for Land Governance Trainings

Based on an extensive literature review and stakeholder consultations followed by a ranking among survey participants the following priority areas were identified by PLAAS:

- 1 FIRST PRIORITY:** Addressing the clash, **disharmony** and clash between **statutory and customary land tenure**
- 2 SECOND PRIORITY:** Understanding and driving or influencing **land policy and land law formulation processes**
- 3 THIRD PRIORITY:** Understanding and strengthening capacities for **land conflicts management and alternative dispute resolution**
- 4 FOURTH PRIORITY:** Understanding **decentralization and institutional development** dimensions of land governance
- 5 FIFTH PRIORITY:** Seizing the potential opportunities and managing the risks associated with **large-scale land acquisition and land-based investment**
- 6 SIXTH PRIORITY:** Understanding and addressing **gender-based land tenure disparities**



Capacity Building Needs in Africa

Africa faces daunting land governance challenges. Rapid population growth and unbridled urban expansion are among the key factors contributing to intensify competition for land, with higher conflict risks. In the last decade, Africa finds itself at the center of the global rush for agricultural land, while the pace of land degradation accelerates.

The ability of African countries to implement their land policies and laws while aligning them to emerging norms is constrained by lack of capacity. Given that the current changes are anticipated to accelerate in the future, capacity development needs to be a continuous effort, targeting current and future generations of land professionals and other allied actors.

The need to prioritize and urgently address the continent’s capacity gap in land governance is well understood and has therefore been highlighted as a key area for achieving good land governance in numerous policy frameworks adopted by the Heads of States and Government of the Africa Union.

Training Workshop on Effective Land Administration in Africa

A **training workshop on effective land administration in Africa** was held at United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) on 9 – 13 November 2017. The workshop was organized on behalf of NELGA by the Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), the African Land Policy Centre (ALPC), UN-Habitat and the Global Land Tool Network (GLTN).

The theme of the workshop **“Innovative Concepts, Tools and Practices for Effective Land Administration”** was focused on the implementation of Fit for Purpose Frameworks in support of the African Union’s (AU) Agenda on Land and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through capacity development. The objectives of the workshop were to create a platform for learning and sharing key land administration cases, approaches, achievements and challenges as well as to learn about innovative land concepts, tools and practices.

The results of the workshop were presented at the Conference on Land Policy in Africa 2017 organized by ALPC in Addis Ababa, 14 – 17 November 2017, under the topic: “The Africa We Want: Achieving socio-economic transformation through inclusive and equitable access to land by the youth”.



Participants during the group work. Photo: © RCMRD



Learning innovative land concepts, tools and practices

During the workshop trainers presented innovative tools in land administration such as Social Tenure Domain Model (STDM) and Gender Evaluation Criteria (GEC).

The participants had a chance to practice the software and discuss possibilities of implementing the concepts in their research and practical work. The workshop highlighted the important role of technology and innovative approaches in land administration.



Creating academia-policy-practice linkages by connecting participants with diverse background

The workshop brought together land officials, technical personnel, professionals, academia, lawyers, civil society organisations and other actors from across the land sector for joint learning on innovative and effective land administration tools and practices for secure land rights and improved land governance in Africa.

In total, 30 participants from 14 countries participated in the training: Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Malawi, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sudan, South Sudan, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

The participants were drawn from various sectors including public, private and academia with the objective of strengthening academia-policy-practice linkages and knowledge exchange in land administration.

“The workshop content and coordination was excellent as it addressed different aspects of land administration and gave specific attention to gender issues”.

Workshop participant

“The best part of the training was experience sharing on land administration by participants from different countries”.

Workshop participant



Way forward

As a way forward the participants discussed opportunities for strengthening the role of NELGA in land administration issues in their countries and agreed on the need for in-country follow up workshops on land governance, Massive Online Course (MOCC) and webinars on innovative tools. It was also agreed to actively engage the private sector in future trainings, knowledge exchange and decision-making processes.

2018 Masterclass on Land Governance and Corruption

Following the launch of the NELGA regional centre in Southern Africa on 19 February 2018, a masterclass themed “**Land Governance and Corruption link**” was successfully delivered on 20 – 22 February 2018 by the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST). The masterclass was conducted in collaboration with the University of Cape Town (UCT).

The purpose of the masterclass was to bring together industry professionals, researchers and academics from various higher education institutions within Southern Africa, to interrogate the issues of land governance and corruption within the region. The masterclass was highly interactive and brought out issues of commonality and best practice in the countries represented. In attendance were 20 professionals from different institutions within Southern Africa including: Botswana, Malawi, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Overall, the masterclass participants agreed that the issue of corruption is one that requires the involvement of various stakeholders, professionals and academics included, to fight it in the land sector. Further, the participants highlighted the need to understand the intricacies of corruption both in rural and urban areas, which has negative effects on the poor.



Masterclass working group.



Certification ceremony.



Learning by doing: Tour to Okahandja Park

The masterclass was finalised with a tour of Okahandja Park, an informal settlement in Windhoek on the 22nd February 2018. The tour was facilitated by the Namibia Housing Action Group (NHAG) in collaboration with the Shack Dwellers Federation of Namibia (SDFN). The purpose of the tour was to understand some of the urban challenges facing the city from the members of SDFN (predominantly women) who call Okahandja Park their home and what measures they are taking to improve their tenure security and standard of living through innovative approaches.



“I thoroughly enjoyed the masterclass because of the ample time to share country experiences but also because the course can be easily adapted and replicated in my country”.

Workshop participant

Masterclass participants at Okahandja Park.
All photos: © GIZ/Theodor Muduva

PhD specialization course on Land Economics and Governance 2018

A PhD specialization course on Land Economics and Governance was conducted at the University of Cape Town (UCT) in South Africa from 8 January to 9 February 2018. The five weeks course was organised by the African Economic Research Centre (AERC) in cooperation with UCT, World Bank and GIZ. This intensive PhD course aimed to help build and strengthen the analytical capacity in Land Economics and Governance in Africa by equipping participating PhD students with the latest theories and tools to conduct state of the art research in Land Governance.

The course was targeted at both students and practitioners in Economics, Agricultural Economics, Development Economics or other relevant doctoral programs, with an interest in **continuing research on a land-related topic**. It was attended by more than 20 students from various African countries: Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Senegal, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Swaziland, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Chad, Mali, Rwanda, Nigeria and Tanzania. Bringing so many students together from all over the continent is a good way to build and support future research networks in this highly specialized area. The course was delivered by local and international experts on land related research of both academia and the World Bank, including internationally renowned economists such as Paul Collier from Oxford University.



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Photos: © GIZ/
Theodor Muduva

“This is an insightful course that answers many contemporary Land Management problems in Africa. A timely initiative”!

PhD candidate



Linking Economics and Land Governance

The topics of economy and land are intrinsically linked. Considering the role and use of land, agricultural land management within an economy is of high importance particularly in African countries. Linking the disciplines of economics and land, and applying economic methods to the analysis of the governance of land use and urban areas helps addressing contemporary problems as well as more fundamental analysis of land-related challenges. For this reasons NELGA actively supports the inclusion of land matters in training and research on economics. The course participants were introduced to NELGA and ongoing activities, as for example a planned continent-spanning land data repository. The course participants will also be included in the NELGA alumni network to facilitate exchange beyond the end of the training course.

“This experience will help me to engage in doing research papers which can be packaged in such a way that it is accessible and can easily be understood by policy makers”.

PhD candidate (Ghana)



“This course has given me the privilege to learn about land related issues and challenges in other African countries”.

PhD Candidate (Malawi)

Key modules



The course covered the following key modules and seminars:

- Land ownership as a determinant of economic structure & political economy,
- Land Use, Land & other Markets and Structural Transformation,
- Economics of Urban Land Use and Policy,
- Using and Collecting Survey & Spatial Data on Land Tenure & Use,
- Introduction to GIS and Remote Sensing
- Evaluating the Impact of Land Related Policy Interventions
- Securing Customary Tenure Rights; Titling and the Alternatives
- Urban land & Cities
- Land Grabbing in Africa
- Preference Heterogeneity and effectiveness of behaviour change interventions.

NELGA

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. It strengthens capacities and knowledge exchange at more than 50 partner institutions across Africa.

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