

## Strengthening Advisory Capacities for Land Governance in Africa (SLGA)



*Smallholder farmer in Namibia presents legal land title.*

### Context

Weak land governance and insecure land rights are still major development challenges for Africa. In 2006, the African Union (AU) established the Land Policy Initiative (LPI) – today's African Land Policy Centre (ALPC) - thereby placing emphasis on the urgency of improving land policies in a regional context. ALPC supports the implementation of the AU Agenda on Land and global initiatives such as the "Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems (RAI)."

Although a growing number of countries express political will to realize these initiatives, their

implementation at country level remains at an early stage. Many countries lack the human and institutional capacities required to implement sustainable land policies.

One of the key reasons for the lack of technical capacity is the insufficient quality of academic programs at African universities and other institutions of higher learning. In addition, most countries lack capacity for applied research, monitoring and evaluation and data to support effective implementation of land policy.

### Action Areas

- **Strengthening the effectiveness of the Network of Excellence on Land Governance in Africa (NELGA):** NELGA operates as a strong network of more than 70 African universities in 40 countries and supports the implementation of the AU Agenda on Land.
- **Expanding training and education capacities:** Universities are provided with advice on how to (re-)develop and improve education programmes based on the existing demands. Scholarship and trainings for decision makers from the public and private sector as well as civil society further strengthen local capacities.

- **Developing NELGA partners' capacities for research-based advisory:** National and regional applied research projects create academic results and connect researchers. Policy dialogues enable stakeholders to engage and share their perspective.

### Our objective

African institutions and professionals implement improved land policies, which strengthen the rights of marginalized groups, smallholder farmers, pastoralists and women.



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## Region

Member states of the African Union

## Duration

December 2014 until February 2026

## Budget

47.7 million Euros

## Implementing Partners

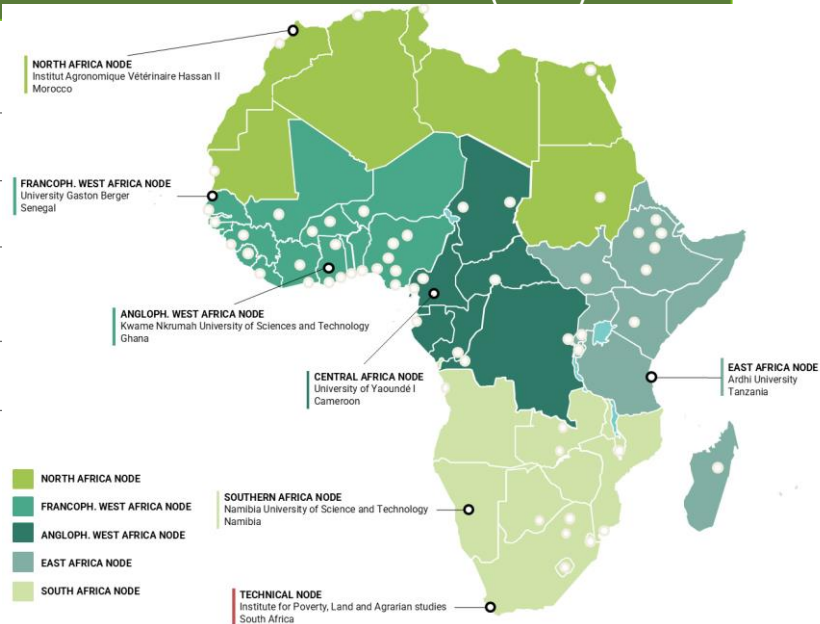
ALPC, RECs, African and European universities, DAAD, World Bank, GLTN, FIG and others

## Lead Executing Agency

Commission of the African Union

## Target Group

Marginalised groups, smallholder farmers, women and ethnic minorities, who suffer as a result of having inadequate access to land or no land rights at all.



## The programme in the field



Frieda Nangolo at her graduation

Frieda Nangolo was a 2020 NELGA-DAAD scholarship holder at Namibian University of Science and Technology (NUST) Department of Land and Property Sciences (DLPS). In 2017, Frieda was granted the opportunity to further her studies with a scholarship from the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), a financial support through NELGA. An optimist by nature, Frieda believed that hard work and a positive attitude were the

keys to getting the scholarship and excelling as the first graduate within her scholarship group in 2020.

*"I grew up in Onkani village in the northern parts of Namibia. After High School, I moved to Windhoek, where I enrolled for an undergraduate degree in Property Studies at Namibia University of Science & Technology (NUST). I completed my degree in 2014 and graduated in 2015. I started working as an intern at Windhoek Municipality, where I gained working experience in the land industry. However, I felt there was more I needed to learn. In 2017, I got a golden opportunity to further my studies with a scholarship from DAAD for a Masters in Spatial Sciences,"* said Frieda.

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 masters degree concurrently and her family life.

Excelling at her graduation, Frieda opined that, "My experience studying with NELGA-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." NELGA helps to improve the visibility of women and youth in land related matters. NELGA scholarships have opened doors for many African students and professionals to excel in their respective careers.

## What has been achieved

### Curricula and Scholarships

- **Guidelines and Toolkit** for Curricula Development on Land Governance in Africa.
- **Curricula Development and Review:** 29 land governance programmes in 23 countries, including areas like land administration, urban, and regional planning.
- **Scholarships:** Over 160 scholarships awarded, with 70 PhDs and 48 MScs through the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), and an additional 47 from other sources.

### Research and Impact on Policy Level

- **Research Projects:** 89 projects conducted across 43 countries.
- **Policy Impact:** NELGA experts have a significant impact on policies across Africa, including on land policies in Zambia, Ghana, Namibia, Senegal, South Sudan and Tchad. Furthermore, NELGA experts have supported the successful development of five National Agriculture Investment Plans (NAIPs). Additionally, NELGA has contributed to publishing eleven Land Governance Assessment Frameworks (LGAFs) in cooperation with the World Bank.

### Training for Land Professionals

- **Accredited course on the Political Economy of Land Governance in Africa:** More than 300 land professionals, of which 45% are women, across 39 Africa countries trained so far on topics such as tenure insecurity, land rights, and gender and land governance.
- **MOOC on Land Conflict Management** launched to equip learners with tools to tackle land conflicts effectively.

## Imprint

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Sitz der Gesellschaft: Bonn und Eschborn  
Abteilung Ländliche Entwicklung und Agrarwirtschaft  
G500 Friedrich-Ebert-Allee 36+40  
53113 Bonn

### Contact :

T +49 (0) 228 44 60 - 3824  
F +49 (0) 228 44 60 - 1766  
rural.development@giz.de  
www.giz.de

### Responsible:

Nanny Wiechert

Head of Project, SLGA

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