



The Network of Excellence on Land Governance in Africa

Striving to improve education and training for good land governance across Africa

Introduction to NELGA

Background

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

Although a growing number of countries show political will to realize these initiatives, their implementation at 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.



NELGA

To strengthen human and institutional capacities for the implementation of the AU Agenda on Land, ALPC has established a **Network of Excellence on Land Governance in Africa (NELGA)** in cooperation with Germany, the World Bank 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 more than 70 partner institutions across Africa.

Objectives of NELGA

1. Enhancing **training** opportunities and curricula on land governance in Africa;
2. Promoting demand driven **research** on land policy issues;
3. Connecting scholars and researchers across Africa through **academic networks**;
4. Creating data and information for **monitoring and evaluation** on land policy reforms.

NELGA: Building a strong continental network on land governance

Key Achievements of NELGA

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:** The course equips African land professionals with the necessary skills to address tenure insecurity, land rights, and gender and land governance. More than 300 land professionals of which 45% are Women across 39 Africa countries were trained so far.
- **MOOC on Land Conflict Management,** NELGA has launched a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on Land Conflict Management to equip learners with tools to tackle land conflicts effectively.

NELGA in the African regions

For better coordination of NELGA in the different regions, a lead university has been selected for each AU region (so-called "Regional Nodes") to implement and coordinate NELGA activities jointly with other NELGA institutions.

1. Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) for **Southern Africa**;
2. Ardhi University in Tanzania for **East Africa**;
3. Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) in Ghana for **Anglophone West Africa**;
4. University Gaston Berger in Senegal for **Francophone West Africa**;
5. Institut Agronomique et Vétérinaire Hassan II (IAV) in Morocco for **North Africa**;
6. University Yaoundé I in Cameroon for **Central Africa**.

In addition, the Institute of Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies (PLAAS) at the University of the Western Cape was selected as a **Technical Node**.

Functions of regional NELGA Nodes

- **Management:** The Nodes act as the Secretariat to the regional NELGA network by hosting NELGA regional staff; reporting on project activities; managing knowledge generation and dissemination platforms.
- **Facilitation:** Initiating NELGA activities in the region; training for NELGA students; implementation of the NELGA scholarship programme; advocating and facilitating delivery of trainings for scholars and policy makers in the region; and work with the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and other regional/national stakeholders to generate data.
- **Coordination:** Overseeing the regional activities, involving NELGA member institutions and linking them to other NELGA regional networks for joint activities and knowledge sharing; reporting and consultations, partnership building.

