Introduction to NELGA

Background

Weak land governance and insecure land rights are still 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, 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 50 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 functions of NELGA

Improve **land-related curricula** in graduate and post-graduate training courses in quantity and quality.

Provide and facilitate **academic education and training** for African land professional and practitioners.

Define an **agenda for research** and **conduct applied research** on land related issues pertinent to the AU agenda on land.

Develop a **repository for data, indicators and information**, in close cooperation with the LPI, RECs and governments.

Promote **knowledge management, dissemination and networking** in support of land policy and governance in Africa by enhancing the community of practice for land policy experts.

Design **appropriate monitoring and evaluation systems**; and implement pilots to facilitate tracking of land related initiatives.

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.

To date, the following regional nodes have been selected:

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

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 RegRECs 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.

Map legend:
- NELGA Nodes
- NELGA Partner Institutions
- Other identified NELGA partner institutions