



## Content

- Collaborative Research on Land Governance
- Land Governance Training and other capacity building initiatives
- Public Outreach
- Policy Dialogues and Conferences
- Future Activities
- Meetings
- Partners
- NELGA Core team

## Team Message

Dear NELGA Members; Dear Partners; Dear Readers

The Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) was selected as a Southern Africa Node for the Network of Excellence on Land Governance in Africa (NELGA). The Node was launched on 19 February 2018. This project is implemented within the framework of Strengthening Advisory Capacities on Land Governance in Africa (SLGA) programme.

As the Southern Africa NELGA Team, we have a great pleasure to launch the second Regional NELGA bi-annual newsletter on the major activities of NELGA in the region and beyond.

We wish you a pleasant reading.

Best regards,

Southern Africa NELGA Team

## Collaborative Research on Land Governance

### Research and Capacity Development Strategy Workshop scheduled for October 2020

by Theodor Muduva (NELGA Southern Africa)

The Network of Excellence on Land Governance in Africa (NELGA) was established by the African Land Policy Centre (ALPC) in cooperation with Germany, World Bank, and other partners. The aim of NELGA, is to strengthen human and institutional capacities for the implementation of the AU agenda on Land. NELGA is a partnership of various African universities and research institutions, which have proven leadership in academic education, training, and research in one or more aspects of land governance.

The Namibia University of Science and Technology was selected as a NELGA Node for Southern Africa and the Node was launched in 2018. The Node embarked upon a collaborative regional scoping study on land governance along with partners in Southern Africa. The study was completed in 2019 and as follow-up to the study, the Node worked on a Research and Capacity Development Strategy for Land Governance Innovation in Southern Africa. The Node has planned to organise a 3-day on-line workshop scheduled for 6-8 October 2020. The workshop was expected to be attended by participants from academic institutions from the following countries in Southern Africa; Namibia, South Africa, Eswatini, Zambia,

Malawi, Lesotho, Botswana, Zimbabwe among others.

The purpose of the remote workshop is to present, discuss and adopt the final draft of the Research and Capacity Development Strategy for Land Governance Innovation in the Southern Africa. The strategy will serve as the basis future research and capacity building in land governance innovation within the Southern African region.

Research and Capacity Development Strategy for Land Governance Innovation in Southern Africa has four key strategic initiatives, identified for the next five years of this plan. The first strategic initiative is to identify opportunities for collaboration in research to develop innovative solutions for the land governance challenges in the region. The second strategic initiative is to target opportunities for capacity development and policy outreach. The third strategic initiative is to identify opportunities for collaboration in the development of curricula, new pedagogies of teaching and modernising curricular themes. The final strategic initiative is to generate funding opportunities for collaborative research. In turn each of these four major strategic initiatives are each supported by a number of objectives in order to help ensure implementation of the strategy.

## Land Governance Training and other Capacity Building Initiatives

### Virtual tool survey for NELGA Southern Africa

by Theodor Muduva (NELGA Southern Africa)

**Background:** The Namibia University of Science and Technology was selected as the NELGA Node for Southern Africa in 2016. The Node resumed its operations in June 2017 and was launched on 19 February 2018. Through the leadership of NUST (Node), the NELGA partnership in the Hub has increased to over 30 Universities in Southern Africa. Since its inception, the Node has to implement many activities in areas of research, outreach, policy dialogues, academic exchange, curriculum developments and knowledge management to mention a few.

Since the news about cases of COVID-19 broke out in December 2019, the whole NELGA network began to contemplate how this global pandemic will affect the activities of NELGA. In March 2020 as the numbers of infections and deaths began to rise globally, many countries began to put in measures to curtail the spread of this virus. Among these measures includes state of emergencies, lock downs and general restrictions of movement. This has affected many sectors of society including universities, the primary stakeholders in the NELGA Network.

**Objectives:** The global practices in line with directives from the World Health Organization (WHO) is to limit physical contacts between humans by observing social distancing among other measures. This called for re-thinking of innovative ways of collaboration, cooperation and developing or sustaining partnerships. The obvious way was strengthening the use of virtual tools as instruments for cooperation and collaboration.

On 18 March 2020, the NELGA Management Team at NUST had a meeting to discuss the impact of Covid-19 on the implementation of NELGA activities and general operation of the Node. The Node identified activities which can be implemented during this difficult time. This would be activities which require limited to no physical contact. These activities can be delivered through platforms such as Kudo, Skype, Teams meetings, Zoom, Cisco WebEx, TeamViewer, MVC PMR(Personal Meeting Room), Hangouts meet(Google) and Adobe Connect to mention a few.

However, there are many challenges associated to on-line platforms or

virtual working. Among these are lack of internet access, weak network connections and knowledge to be able to use available virtual tools. The Node therefore embarked upon a survey to assess the accessibility and capability of partners on virtual tools to determine capacity developments needs in order to enhance effective collaboration. The specific objectives for carrying out this exercise were;

- To Identify existing common virtual tools used by partners and obtain consensus on the most accessible tool.
- Determine the training needs regarding the common virtual tools
- Understand the challenges regarding access and use of virtual tools and collectively work on solutions.
- Enhance effective collaboration through the use of virtual tools to ensure continuity of the network.

**Methodology:** The method for assessing the use of virtual tools was by administration of a questionnaire through google docs. A test run was done with a small group to test the relevance and time it would take to complete the survey. The survey link was sent to the academic partners via e-mail and respondents were given a period of two weeks, however the responses were below 25% hence an extension was done, and the survey was extended to one (1) week. The Southern Africa NELGA network is made up of over 30 academic institutions from 12 countries in Southern Africa. These institutions are represented by over 100 individual partners. The link was administered to 93 individual partners and 30 respondents completed the questionnaire which represented 32% and the targeted representative was 25%.

**Results:** We assessed the accessibility and capability of partners on virtual tools to determine capacity developments needs in order to enhance effective collaboration. The results from the survey are represented by cluster and pie charts to give a visual representation of the findings. Below are the results as collected from the questionnaire

Continues on Next Page

**Conclusions:** Consequently, virtual tools are the new normal for interaction. Seeing that the pandemic is still on the rise, and physical contact is avoided to combat the spread of the virus. The survey results show that our partners use virtual tools; however, there's a need to provide training in some common virtual tools. The most common and accessible virtual tools among the partners are Microsoft Teams and Zoom. Other tools which are used by the partners include; Skype, google meeting and WebEx. There could be other virtual tools which were not mentioned in the survey including KUDO. Nevertheless, a few indicated that they are not conversant with any tool. The existing common virtual tools used by our academic partners are Zoom and Microsoft teams. However, it was also determined that

most of our partners need training in Microsoft Teams and Zoom, making these the well-known virtual tools, hence common amongst partners and an accessible tool. Regardless, the respondents indicated that they know the basic usage, but they want to understand these tools further as they have great interest in the tools. The partners indicated that they have functional internet connectivity both at the institutions and outside the institution; thus, internet connectivity is not a challenge with the partners making virtual tools accessible. Lastly, this gives a strong indication regarding how the Node can continue to engage its partners, it shows the node can continue to implement most activities on the work plan. This will continue to enhance effective collaboration.

**Recommendations:** Partners should be trained in Ms Team and Zoom. The Node should prioritise activities in the workplan, which can be carried out using the findings of this survey. The node should now engage partners in various online activities and initiatives (e.g. webinars, capacity building initiatives etc)

## Study Journey Towards Graduation



### HEAD: UWC/PLAAS joins African land governance network as thought-leader

by Mrs Frieda Nangolo  
(Former DAAD Scholarship Holder)

Mrs Frieda Nangolo **(FN)** is a DAAD scholarship holder who was the first scholarship holder in her group to graduate. She graduated in April 2020, and in this Q&A session Mrs Nangolo shares her study journey, challenges of Covid-19 and wedding story with Theodor Muduva **(TM)**.

**TM:** Tell me about yourself? (Upbringing and Education)

**FN:** I was born and bred in Onkani village in the northern parts of Namibia, I completed by secondary school at Mweshipandeka High School in Ongwediva, I than moved to Windhoek where I enrolled for an undergraduate degree in Property Studies at Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST). I completed my degree in 2014 and graduated in 2015. I started working as intern at Windhoek Municipality where I gained working experience in the industry and I am currently employed as a Valuer in the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform. In 2017 I got a golden opportunity to further my studies with a scholarship from DAAD.

First of all, I am a very positive minded person, I believe that positivity will take you far in life. I am also ambitious and hardworking because I grew up in the environment that taught me that nothing comes easy, you have to work hard for it. I am kind and humble because I believe in humanity and that the world will be a better place if we all love one another.

**TM:** Which year did you start with University and where?

**FN:** In 2011, at Polytechnic of Namibia now NUST, Windhoek

**TM:** Can you share your experience of your scholarship studying under DAAD? Which course did you study?

**FN:** My experience studying with DAAD was good one and also it challenged me at some points because I was studying while having a full time job and having my person life. It brought out a different side of me which I never thought I have. I was enrolled with Master of Spatial Science.

**TM:** What support did you get during your study as a DAAD scholarship holder?

**FN:** DAAD provided me with financial support from tuition fees, personal needs and study materials.

**TM:** Tell us about your other master degree (field, duration of study)?

**FN:** When I got the opportunity to study with DAAD's scholarship in 2017, I was also enrolled with Master of Science in Construction Management at the University College of Estate Management (Distance mode of study) which started mid-2016 to mid-2018 and I graduated in December 2018.

**TM:** How did you manage studying two masters at once? Time management? Personal life? Family? etc.

**FN:** One can imagine how it like is to study two masters at the same time as well as working a full time job and having a personal life. It was challenging but at the same time it taught me how to prioritize certain things in my life and also taught me that everything it possible and I can achieve anything that I put my mind to with hard work and determination of course.

**TM:** Can you share and mention the tools and methods you used that aided you with your studies during the Covid-19 pandemic and how useful were they?

**FN:** I was fortunate to finish my studies beginning of 2020 just before COVID-19 hit our country

**TM:** How did you balance your work plus your studies and personal life during these difficult times?

**FN:** I had to give up most of my social life to enable me jungle between studies and work. In the end it was for a good course.

**TM:** How was your experience having to focus on your studies whilst planning a wedding during the pandemic (how did you two meet)?

**FN:** It was hectic, as I said earlier that one need to be positive minded to go far

in life even in the midst of uncertainties. I even had to postpone the wedding due to precautions that were put to curb the spread of the disease such as limited number of gatherings & travel restrictions. I had to constantly remind myself that this is something beyond my control so I do not need to worry, because it shall pass, all I told myself was to focus on my studies because I have control to either pass or fail. But in the end I graduated and also got married too.

**TM:** Can you share one moment that you will forever cherish from your wedding especially having to execute it during a pandemic?

**FN:** The moment to cherish forever is that I still managed to get married to my soul mate in the midst of the pandemic because I have heard of some people that called off their weddings due to different reasons contributed by the pandemic.

## Land Governance Training and other Capacity Building Initiatives

### Working remotely during the corona crisis: NELGA Southern Africa Node

Theodor Muduva (NELGA Southern Africa)

**Short summary (How is the setup of your remote working situation)**

The NELGA Management Team at the Node had a meeting on 17 March 2020 to discuss how COVID-19 will affect the implementation of the NELGA activities and came up with a list of activities which can still be implemented during this crisis and also came up with strategies of implementing these activities. The Namibian University of Science and Technology (NUST) ordered all the staff members to work from home between 28 March – 17 April 2020 in line with the Government of Namibia's directives. This also affected the SLGA Advisor and NELGA Intern (Ms. Ashley Chimfutumba) who are

integrated in the Department of Land Property Studies (DLPS) at NUST also called the Node. On the side of SLGA, the Advisor submitted NELGA Interim activities which can be implemented during the Corona crisis. The SLGA Advisor following the said directives set-up his office at home, carrying along all the key office equipment. The GIZ Country Office organised mobile data packages for selected staff members including the SLGA Advisor and access to the internet has enhanced the work of the advisor to achieve set goals during this challenging time.

Continues on Next Page



Experiences and positive aspects

This is not a completely new scenario, because the SLGA programme is designed for staff operating remotely. The Advisors are placed at various universities in different parts of Africa and the Head Office GIZ-SLGA is based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The only new aspect is the health and safety aspects, but not necessarily the working aspects. The unique part is working entirely from home, which comes with its own positive aspects and challenges. The positive aspect of working from home is the availability of time, because of few meetings and destructions associated with sitting in a public office space, especially at a university for that matter where there are many events taking place on a daily basis. The other positive aspect is the convenience of having an office within the convenience of ones dwelling, which leads to reduced costs of commuting to and from the office, as well as other associated costs. The opportunity to spend more time with the family is also well appreciated. It also helps the family to understand and appreciate the work of the Advisor, hence when the situation returns to normal, they will be able to provide moral support with full understanding.

Challenges

Among the challenges is adaption by the Advisor to the new working environment, which is working fulltime from home. It is not easy for the family to adapt to a few changes in the home to accommodate the Advisor to work from home. The family is required to change some of their daily routines in order to allow the advisor time to do his work effectively. This includes giving up space for setting up an office and to limit domestic activities during skype meetings. Another major challenge is the delays in response from partners, stakeholders, and service providers because everyone is limited in one way or another, which further delays implementation of activities. Another anticipated challenge is IT support, especially when it comes to problems which can only be addressed by physical contacts.

Potential solutions and required support

Most relevant support have been provided already and this includes the permission to take office equipment home. The facilitation of mobile data packages to be able to have access to the internet while working from home. The SLGA check-in skype meetings are a great platform. It is a source of encouragement and maintenance of team spirit during this challenging time. It is also a way of ensuring that NELGA activities can continue to be carried out in the best possible way under the current circumstance. The support required from SLGA to help Advisors, is to reach out and encourage the Nodes (especially the Coordinators) to remain engaged with NELGA activities to the best of their abilities during this difficult time. This should be done with the acknowledgement that the Nodes or Coordinators are also facing many other different challenges associated with their work at the institutions.

Public Outreach

Opinion Pieces on Land Governance  
by Theodor Muduva (NELGA Southern Africa)

**Background:** The Department of Land and Property Sciences (DLPS) at the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) was selected as the Southern Africa Node for the Network of Excellence on Land Governance in Africa (NELGA). The Node has embarked upon a strategy to proactively contribute to national and regional dialogues on relevant land governance issues. The NUST through the DPLS signed a grant agreement in 2017 and started implementing NELGA activities. One of the major NELGA activities is public outreach on land governance related issues. Consensus was reached that newspaper opinion pieces will be one of the instruments or tools to use when carrying out public outreach.

**Objectives:** The main aim of these publications is to inform the public on various land governance related issues in different countries in Southern Africa (including Namibia). This is a platform for academics to diffuse their specialised knowledge on land governance to the public, including policy makers. It is an opportunity to stimulate dialogue on topical issues. Furthermore, this exercise has the

potential to enhance the visibility of the NUST, DLPS, ILMI and NELGA since these opinion pieces are placed on the Newspapers, websites, and other social medial platforms (e.g. Facebook). This exercise will contribute to building capacity of the staff members of the DLPS/NUST (including other participating academic institutions) with regards to articulation of their knowledge from their respective areas of expertise and effectively diffuse such to the general public.

**Results:** This activity resumed in June 2017 and to date 22 opinion pieces have been contributed and published in various local newspapers by stakeholders from Namibia and majority of them from the Department of Land Property Sciences (DLPS) at the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST). This initiative has received encouraging reviews and feedback from stakeholders and as such will continue. Efforts are being made to compile and publish all the opinion pieces produced to date into a booklet for further dissemination.

Future Activities

- Research Capacity Development Strategy for Land Governance Innovation in Southern Africa
- MOU's with partners
- Policy dialogues

Meetings

**24 February 2020 – Main objective:** NELGA management team meeting was held on 24 February 2020 to discuss the agenda for the next NELGA general meeting scheduled for 27 February 2020. Participants: Prof Katjiua, Ms. Issa, Muna and Theo

**27 February 2020 – Main objectives:** NELGA General Meeting held on 27 February 2020. Celina, Kahereke, Stephnie. The aim was to discuss the upcoming NELGA activities with focus on the World Bank conference and Launch of Synthesis report. Participants: Prof Katjiua, Theo, Muna, Issa, Sam, Hayford, Elina,

**05 March 2020 – Main objectives:** NELGA Meeting held with the Adjunct Professors (Prof Kirk and Prof Enemark) on 05 March 2020, discussions on the logistics for the Launch of the Land Governance Synthesis report and the Research Capacity Development Strategy Workshop which was initially scheduled on 6-7 May 2020. Participants: Prof Katjiua, Sam Mwando, Theodor Muduva, Prof Michael Kirk, and Prof Stig Enemark.

**06 March 2020 – Main objectives:** Follow-up meeting held with the Adjunct Professors (Prof Enemark and Prof Kirk)

on the logistics for the Launch of the Land Governance Synthesis report and the Research Capacity Development Strategy Workshop planned for 6-7 May 2020. The meeting was attended by Prof Katjiua, Sam Mwando, Theodor Muduva, Prof Michael Kirk, and Prof Stig Enemark.

**17 March 2020 – Main objectives:** NELGA Management Team meeting held on 17 March 2020 to discuss various issues: The focus was to discuss and formulate a response plan as a result of the COVID-19. There were discussions on how the situation would affect implementation of NELGA activities. There were detailed discussions on activities which can be undertaken during the government lockdown and restrictions due to this pandemic. A detailed list of NELGA activities which can be undertaken was developed. Participants: Prof Katjiua, Mr. Amin Issa, Muna Anguwo and Theodor Muduva.

**11 May 2020 – Main objectives:** Meeting held with Prof Katjiua at DLPS/NUST to discuss urgent NELGA activities. Among these were; grand proposal (no-cost extension), financial reports, feedback on virtual EGM etc. Participants: Prof Katjiua and Theodor Muduva

Continues on Next Page



## A vertical landscape photograph capturing a desert scene. The foreground is filled with dry, yellowish-brown grass and several small, dark, leafy trees. In the middle ground, there are large, rugged mountains with reddish-brown and dark purple hues. The sky is filled with large, white, fluffy clouds against a bright blue background.

The Southern Africa NELGA Node is a consortium of partner Universities involved in conducting Education, training and research on land governance. The process of identifying partners is an on-going activity and some partners have been actively participating in the NELGA activities for the last 2 years. Over 30 partner universities/institutes/colleges in 12 Southern African countries have been identified to date. These countries are Namibia, South Africa, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Eswatini, Zambia, Malawi, Lesotho, Angola and Mozambique, Mauritius and Madagascar.

