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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 for Land Governance Innovation in Southern Africa, 6-8 October 2020.
by Theodor Muduva (NELGA Southern Africa)

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.

The on-line 3-day workshop was held on 6-8 October 2020. The workshop was attended by over 50 participants from academic institutions from the following countries in Southern Africa; Namibia, South Africa, Eswatini, Zambia, Malawi, Lesotho, Botswana, and Zimbabwe. Further consultations with the team from Zimbabwe to obtain detailed input into the strategy has been planned. The Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform in Namibia was also represented at the workshop.

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



Participants: Research and Capacity Development Strategy Workshop for Land Governance Innovation in Southern Africa, 6-8 October 2020.

Land Governance Training and other Capacity Building Initiatives

Toward a Research and Capacity Development Strategy for Land Governance Innovation in Southern in the Southern Africa Region
by-Charl-Thom Bayer (Namibian University of Science and Technology)

On 6-8 October 2020, the members of the NUST-NELGA Hub met and discussed that draft strategy and concluded by adopting the “Research and Capacity Development Strategy for Land Governance Innovation in Southern Africa”.

The activities of NUST-NELGA Hub as a Centre of Excellence in Land Governance for Southern Africa are numerous. However, one key outcome has been the completion of Project on Land Governance in Southern Africa¹. It covers a description and assessment of Land Governance in the Southern Africa Region (Africa mainland south of Tanzania and the Democratic Republic of Congo). The project covered 8 countries: Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, South Africa, Eswatini, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The results

of the Project on Land Governance in Southern Africa were discussed and presented at the NUST-NELGA Hub for Southern Africa at a 2-day Symposium. The Symposium identified regional land policy implications and the key land challenges facing Southern African countries. The key challenges and opportunities were published in a Synthesis Report in 2020.

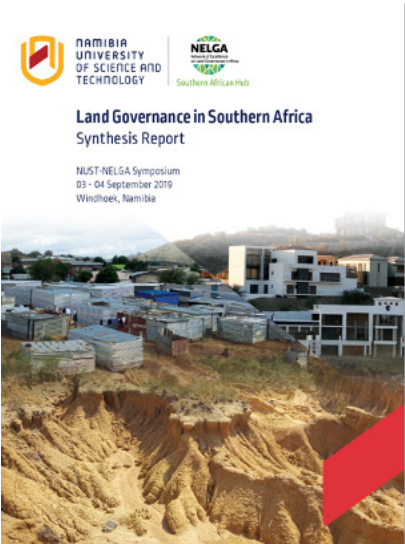
The eight country case studies together with the synthesis report will form the basis for future research, capacity development and policy innovation in the region. Ensuring that this happens in a systematic and coherent manner requires that the NUST-NELGA Hub develop this “Research and Capacity Development Strategy for Land Governance Innovation in Southern Africa” for the period 2020 to 2025.

Summary of Strategy

NUST-NELGA Hub serves as a key driver for;

- capacity building
- knowledge dissemination
- and Innovation

for improved land governance and administration in the Southern African region. The Country Scoping Studies and Synthesis Report on “Land Governance in Southern Africa” provides a framework for describing land governance in the region. The “Research and Capacity Development Strategy for Land Governance Innovation in Southern Africa” should



¹ See the Synthesis Report: Land Governance in Southern Africa and the eight country reports at <http://landsymposium.nust.na/>

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serve as a systematic and coherent basis for future research, capacity development and policy innovation.

In the Research and Capacity Development Strategy for Land Governance Innovation in Southern Africa, four key strategic initiatives have been 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.

Discussion

Prior to the commencement of the workshop, participants were requested to provide their feedback and comments on the strategy in writing in terms of a structured reflection. This ensured that there was great familiarity with the documentation and served to facilitate more efficient use of time and effective discussion.

Core Principles

In order to achieve these strategic initiatives, the NUST-NELGA Hub adopted five key principles that will serve as a guide during the next five years. These principles shape and define the nature of the ongoing cooperation and reflect what the partnership is trying to achieve.

The Core Principles adopted are:

- Networking, Collaboration, Partnership and Mentoring
- Knowledge Diffusion and Outreach for Informed Policy Making
- Local context and Ownership Matters
- Long Term, Flexibility, Continuity and Sustainability
- Monitoring and Evaluation



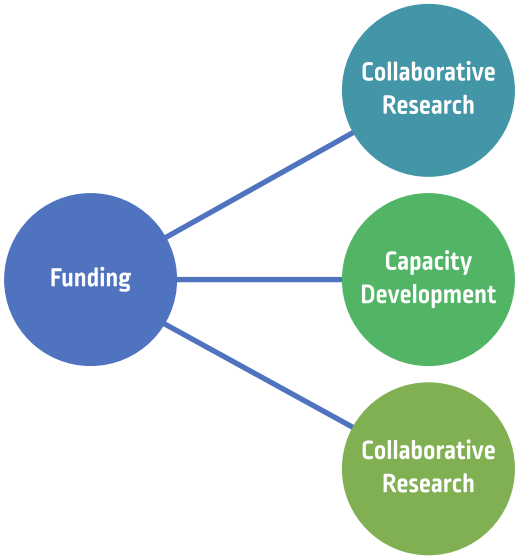
Strategic Pillars

The strategic initiatives adopted in the Research and Capacity Development Strategy for Land Governance Innovation in Southern Africa are closely aligned with the major African and International Initiatives.

The strategy supports and draws inspiration from the;

- African Land Policy Initiative
- African Union Framework and Guidelines on Land Policy in Africa
- African Agenda 2063
- UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs)
- FAO Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure (VGGTs)
- World Bank Land Governance Assessment Framework (LGAF).

The NUST-NELGA Hub has identified four key strategic initiatives for the next five years of its strategic plan: Collaborative Research, Capacity Development, Curriculum Development, and Improved Funding. These four major strategic initiatives are each supported by a number of objectives. The objectives are the means by which the initiatives will be achieved through a series of specified actions. Each action will form the implementable component of the objectives, and the degree of implementation will be measured through one or more indicators for each action.



Research

The workshop identified opportunities for collaboration in research to develop innovative solutions for the land governance challenges in the region. Collaboration takes place between individuals working in different organisations, rather than between organisations themselves, but organisations structure and facilitate such cooperation to support the individuals in order to achieve the objectives of the individuals and that of the organisation. Therefore, this strategy serves as a guide to enable cooperation between individuals from multiple organisations and countries to develop research opportunities dealing with the regional issues.

Capacity Development

Developing capacity in land governance is not only about education and teaching, although this is critical, but it entails much more than that. Capacity development is also about empowering communities and society at large, about reaching out and helping to policy makers and public sector actor's skills and knowledge about land governance.

Curricula

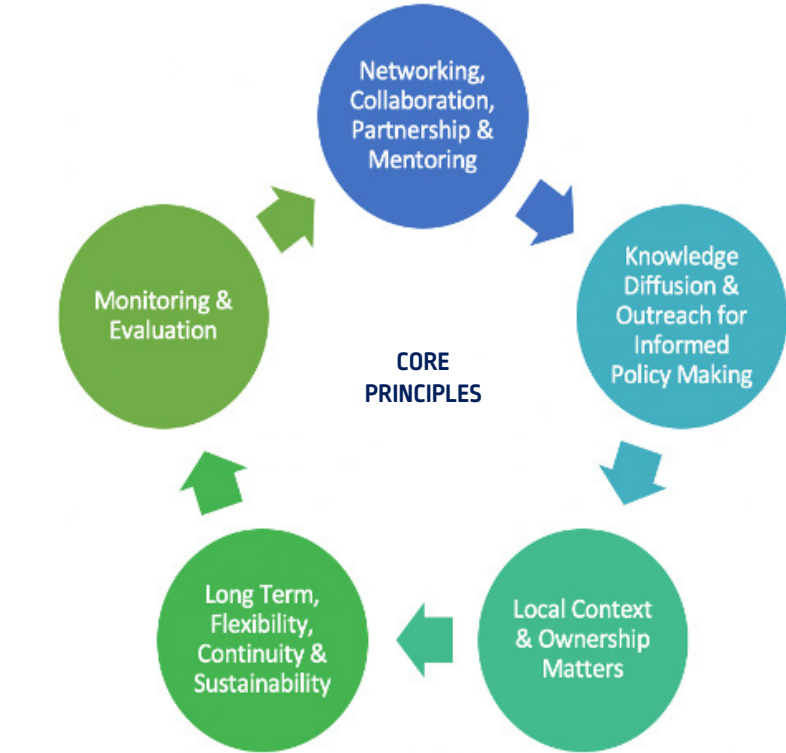
The participants identified the need to share experience in the most recent pedagogical developments to improve learning at undergraduate and postgraduate levels. Opportunities also exist to re-examine and modernise curricula in the region where appropriate. A host of new and emerging technologies (big data, open data, analytics), as well as current problems (informality) experienced in the region are not adequately reflected in curricula across the region.

Funding

Research and capacity building efforts require sustained and sufficient funding. Such funding may come from the institutions themselves or from external sources. However, the Hub should strive to increase these funds, locally, regionally and internationally to enable and support the implementation of this strategy.

Monitoring and Evaluation

It is critical that a monitoring and evaluation framework forms part of the strategic plan to ensure that progress and can be continuously monitored. It provides a baseline for improvement and a mechanism for reflection and where required, for corrective action. It provides an evidence base that allows the NUST-NELGA Hub to assess the extensive and varied range of planned interventions for improving land governance and administration in the region. The workshop adopted the evaluation score card.



NUST-NELGA Hub Strategic Scorecard 2020-2025		
Strategic Initiative and Objective	Activities	Indicators
Collaborative research Encourage collaborative research on the priority areas as presented in Table 1, Section 4.1	Host annual research planning workshops to brainstorm and support the development of research proposals	# of research planning workshops hosted; # of participants # of research proposals submitted for funding
	Define a set of annual conferences (WB, FIG, African Land Policy Conference) for which funding may be applied	# of collaborate papers submitted and funded # of staff attending conferences
	Use senior staff to support and guide junior research team and their proposals	# of staff members being mentored # of research proposals developed.
Capacity Development Encourage capacity development initiatives in the priority areas as presented in Table 2, Section 4.2	Organise public awareness campaigns to demonstrate capacity needs	# of campaigns organised # and profile of attendees
	Establish CPD programs for upgrading in-service staff in various disciplines	# and kind of CPD programs developed # of participants attending
	Establish short term (say 1 year) interdisciplinary courses for educating land clerks	# of short-term courses developed # of participants attending
Curriculum Development Encourage curriculum development initiatives in the priority areas as presented in Table 3, Section 4.3	Revise curricula to reflect relevant topical issues in the region and the drivers of the global agenda and technology development	# and kind of revision processes towards regional issues # and kind of revision processes towards global and technology drivers
	Ensure the curriculum provides opportunities for learning such as Problem-based and project-organised elements	# and kind of revision processes for incorporation learning opportunities
	Enable sharing of experience and exchange of staff and students between respective universities	# of staff and students exchanged # of participating institutions
Improved Funding Facilitate raising of the necessary funding at various levels as presented in Chapter 5.	Develop and maintain an index of funding opportunities nationally, regionally and internationally and a reporting format for beneficiaries	Index of funding opportunities published at the website Report format for beneficiaries developed and adopted by NUST-NELGA Hub.
	Provide seed funding for collaborative research proposals and conference presentations	# of research activities funded # of sources of financing and # of dollars received
	Develop a funding formula for research proposals for the NUST-NELGA hub members	Funding formula agreed and approved by NUST-NELGA Hub # of proposals submitted for funding
Evaluation	It is recommended that the outcome of this overall strategy is evaluated within a timespan of say five years	Evaluation report completed and adopted by NUST-NELGA Hub

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The Steering Structure for the Implementation of the Research and Capacity Development strategy for Land Governance Innovation in Southern Africa: NUST-NELGA Hub Steering Committee for Land Governance

by:Charl-Thom Bayer (Namibian University of Science and Technology) and Theodor Muduva (NELGA Southern Africa)

Background: The NUST-NELGA Hub for Southern Africa has established a Steering Committee for Land Governance as agreed at the Land Governance Symposium held at NUST on 3-4 September 2019. The purpose of the Symposium was to identify regional land policy implications and the key land challenges facing Southern African countries, see <http://landsymposium.nust.na/>.

Objectives: The purpose of the Steering Committee is to follow up on the outputs presented at the Symposium in order to develop a strategy that can serve as a basis for future research and capacity development in land governance within Southern Africa region and improve sustainability of the current network. The strategy will be used for identifying land governance research and capacity development activities

for input to the new NELGA workplan and other funding opportunities. The Steering Committee has the following three (3) main objectives: 1) Identifying research opportunities for the NUST-NELGA Hub for Southern Africa over the next five years, 2) Target research collaboration and capacity development opportunities for the NUST-NELGA Hub for Southern Africa over the next five years. 3) Expand the opportunities for increased funding of the NUST-NELGA Hub for Southern Africa from the existing partners and identifying possible additional sources of funding. The Steering Committee: Prof Mutjinde Katjiua-Chairperson (Namibia), Dr. Edward Chikwenda (Malawi), Dr. James Chakwizira (South Africa), Dr. Fatima Mandhu (Zambia) and Prof Absalom Manyatsi (Eswatini). The committee is supported by the project management team and the secretariat.

- 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

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)

Land Governance Training and other capacity building initiatives

Findings of the Virtual tool survey for NELGA Southern Africa

by Sam Mwando (Namibia University of Science and Technology) and 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

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 26 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.

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Policy Dialogues and Conferences

GIZ Land Hub meeting 2020 “The Road to 2030” : Participation of NUST in the GIZ Land Hub 2020

by Royal Mabakeng (Namibia University of Science and Technology) and Theodor Muduva (NELGA Southern Africa)

For the past five years, the GIZ Landhub has successfully contributed to networking and knowledge exchange on the topic of land governance in international development cooperation. The fifth GIZ LandHub meeting was held on 14 – 16 December 2020. The meeting was held on-line, due to covid-19 pandemic and its implications on travel and gatherings.

The Landhub continuously brings together experts from around the world and provides a space for open exchange and critical debate on land related topics. The 2020 LandHub meeting covered a wide range of relevant and innovative topics in the land sector through various panel discussions and workshop sessions. The fifth Landhub thus, included topics such as Agenda

2030 and the achievement of the Land SDGs, the relevance of good research and science communication related to land policies, the Land and Forest Nexus, and digital innovation, social inclusion, and gender transformative approaches in the land sector. Furthermore, as in previous years, the numerous opportunities for exchange and networking played an important role.

NUST (NELGA Node) was represented by Ms Royal Mabakeng and Mr. Theodor Muduva, who jointly presented a presentation titled “Capacitating graduates to support Land Administration in Namibia” on 16 December 2021, under the session “Digital Innovations for Land Tenure Security”.

Future Activities

- MOU's with partners
- On-line Course on Land Governance and Corruption
- NELGA Southern Africa Sustainability Strategy
- NELGA Southern Africa Gender Strategy
- Policy dialogues

Meetings

21 July 2020 – Main objective: On-line meeting convened to discuss the result of the of the virtual tool assessment survey and resolved as follows; a) Produce a PowerPoint presentation to share pre-liminary findings, b) Extend the deadline of the survey until 31 July 2020 to achieve or get close to a 50% sample. Participants: Theodor, Sam, and Ashley

06 August 2020 – Main objective: On-line meeting convened on “On-line Course on Land Governance and Corruption” on 06 August 2020. The discussion focused on content and costs. Participants: Sam, Prof Katjiua, Mr. Issa, Theodor, and Ashley.

28 August 2020 – Main objective: MS Team meeting held with participants; Tommy, Muna, Ashley on “On-line Research Strategy Meeting in September/October 2020”.

04 September 2020 – Main objective: On-line meeting held on Land Governance Research and Capacity Development Strategy Workshop to discuss the logistics on the workshop. Participants: T. Bayer, T. Muduva and M. Anguwo.

11 September 2020 – Main objective: On-line meeting held on 11 September 2020. The aim was to further discuss the logistics for the Land Governance Research and Capacity Development Strategy Workshop. Participants: Tommy, Prof Katjiua, Muna, Theodor.

13 October 2020 – Main objective: On-line NELGA Management meeting on 13 October 2020. Participants; Prof Katjiua, Theo and Muna (Apology: Mr. Issa). The key topic was the “On-line Course on Land Governance and Corruption”.

Partnerships

Academic Partnerships within NELGA Southern Africa

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.



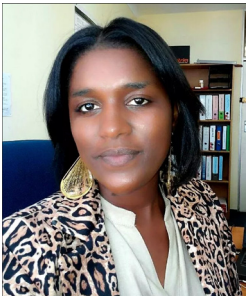
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