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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

## Maintenance of the Established NELGA-SA Node

### Sustainability Strategy for NELGA Southern Africa

by Prof Mutjinde Katjiua (Namibia University of Science and Technology) and Theodor Muduva (NELGA Southern Africa)

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 operational since June 2017 and was launched on 19 February 2018. The Network is funded by GIZ-African Union, through the GIZ programme on Strengthening Capacities for Land Governance in Africa (SLGA).

The establishment of the NUST-NELGA Node at the Namibia University of Science and Technology serves as a key driver for increased capacity building efforts for improved land governance and administration in the Southern African region. It is a partnership of various Southern African Universities, research institutions and civic organisations with proven leadership in academic education, training, and research in land governance (Node Research Strategy, 2020). To date the Node has become a network of over 30 universities and research institutions in 12 Southern African countries.

The partnership is gaining increased relevance as a leading authority on land governance matters in the region. An active programme has been

developed that includes collaborative research, capacity building, regular outreach activities, academic exchange, curriculum development and review, land governance training (including master classes) and the regular hosting and participation in policy dialogues.

Over the years the partners have enquired about the sustainability of the network. As a result, a decision was made to develop a regional sustainability strategy. This strategy adopts a holistic approach and acknowledges that sustainability is not limited to funding, but there are many other factors. This strategy has highlighted key relevant factors to ensure success and sustainability of the Network beyond the funding period.

Sustainability of project is the organisational, technical and financial capacity of programmes to continue beyond the programme funding period. Therefore, Sustainability should not just be an afterthought but should be one of the project's goals, hence project management needs to consider sustainability as one, if not the most important success factor. Some of the factors of project sustainability are: participation and commitment from

stakeholders, funding, innovation management (research), and influencing monitoring and evaluation of the project. Other external factors influencing sustainability of projects include: legislation, policies and political support, efficiency of intermediate level actors – Government, NGOs, and the private sector.

This strategy will provide a general roadmap for overall success of the NUST-NELGA Southern Africa Node. The strategy compliments and incorporates existing plans, strategies, and indicators for the Node and SLGA

programme in general. These includes monitoring and evaluations tools such as monthly reports, progress reports and grand proposals. It is incorporating crucial aspects of the Research and Development Strategy for Land Governance Innovation in Southern Africa. It also incorporates aspects of the envisaged Gender Strategy for the NELGA Node.

## Collaborative Research on Land Governance

### Joint Good practices for NELGA-NAIP

by Theodor Muduva (NELGA Southern Africa) and Rosette Mbenda (NELGA Central Africa)

**Background:** The Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) is the African Union's policy framework for agricultural transformation of the continent. Established in 2003, it aims to contribute to an increase in agricultural productivity in Africa's mostly agriculture-based economies.

The Pretoria-based NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA) and the AU Commission's Department for Rural Economy and Agriculture (AUC DREA), based in Addis Ababa, are mandated technically and politically to coordinate the implementation of CAADP across the continent. In 2014, the CAADP initiative was reviewed by African heads of states and reaffirmed in the Malabo Declaration that repositioned agriculture as a priority on the continental development agenda.

CAADP implementation takes place at the level of AU member states. The National Agriculture Investment Plans (NAIPs) are at the heart of this implementation process. These are country-specific strategies to increase investment and productivity in agriculture. The assumption is that a successfully implemented NAIP will contribute significantly to the objectives formulated in the CAADP strategy as well as to the commitments made in the Malabo Declaration.

The GIZ CAADP Support Programme contracted a consultancy firm, PEM Consult, to assist country stakeholders with NAIP review, formulation, and implementation in the context of the Malabo Declaration. During the NAIP Review, PEM works closely with experts from the Regional Strategic Agricultural Knowledge Support System (ReSAKSS).

In order to ensure that NAIPs include activities and investments necessary to achieve the Malabo commitments, one of the main objectives of the CAADP support process is the mainstreaming of key themes into NAIPs, including land policy and land governance. Technical analysis is required to evaluate countries' status in land governance towards the end of their current NAIP and to develop country-specific goals, targets, and milestones to guide the development of a Malabo-compliant successor NAIP.

The theme of land policy and land governance is not covered by the ReSAKSS studies undertaken in the context of the NAIP Review. Therefore, the GIZ programme Strengthening Advisory Capacities for Land Governance in Africa (SLGA) in collaboration with the GIZ CAADP Support Programme contracted NELGA partners as consultants to carry out an in-depth country assessment on land policy/governance in the following five (5) Southern African countries; Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Eswatini and Botswana. The same exercise was also done in Gabon (Francophone West-Africa).

The Objective is to carry out an in-depth country analysis of the status of land policy and land governance in the context of the Malabo Declaration to support the development of a successor (or 2nd generation) NAIP in these countries, including a presentation on the status quo, possible shortcomings and recommendations to the country team responsible for NAIP development and formulation.

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**Methodology, Participation And Outputs:**

In Southern Africa, the country teams were led by the following experts or consultants; Mr Sam Mwando (Namibia), Ms. Vimbai Vudzijena (Zimbabwe), Dr. Gilbert Siame (Zambia), Dr. Emmanuel Sulle (Eswatini) and Mr. Loyd Sungirirai (Botswana). In West Francophone West Africa, the team consultants in Gabon was led by Dr Ovono Noël and Cameroon by Mrs Ngono spouse Nga Onana Hortense. The NELGA Node for Southern Africa through the Office of the SLGA Advisor (Mr. Theodor Muduva) was very instrumental in supporting the consultants and this process in general. While in Central Africa the SLGA Advisor Mrs Rosette Mbenda was very supportive of the process.

The country teams held various consultations meetings with various and relevant stakeholders in their respective countries. This included government ministries in the Agriculture, Water and Land Sectors. The consultants also held bilateral/ individual and group meetings and consultations with these stakeholders in their respective countries.

This assessment was completed in August 2019 in southern Africa and March 2020 in Central Africa and following deliverables were produced; presentations, policy briefs, PowerPoint presentations and organization of workshop to validate study reports. The process of disseminating these outputs is in progress.

**Outputs, Key Policy Messages And Conclusions:** The findings show that most governments try to demonstrate their commitments to meeting the African heads of State's Malabo Declaration. Some of the individual countries have made progress in reforming their respective internal programmes. These reforms are targeted at various land related strategies, policies, and legislation. Others have shown commitment to increase budget allocation to the land sector in order to stimulate investment in the agricultural sector. Despite these progressive steps poor land governance remains a huge challenge which hampers the productive potential of the agriculture sectors in these countries.

**Botswana:** Analysis of Botswana's programmes and projects reveals that land governance has not been adequately mainstreamed within the country. The Agriculture and Livestock policy refers to land governance however no mechanisms for its implementation are elaborated.

**Eswatini:** The Government is required to harmonize land related policies and legislation to ensure smooth execution of such policies and legislation and hence improve land governance. This will in turn lead to increased agricultural investment.

**Namibia:** The assessment concludes with policy recommendations regarding the institutional and legal arrangements, rethinking the National Resettlement Programme (NRP), the need for

research-based policy formulation, young and emerging farmer support, transparency and awareness on the importance of good land governance in supporting agriculture investments in Namibia.

**Zambia:** The brief argues that land administration and agricultural development are closely interlinked. The link between effective land administration and increased agricultural investment is clear and strong. Thus, the need for land to be placed at the core of NAIP programmes is a required condition for the success of the Malabo Declaration.

**Zimbabwe:** Land governance in Zimbabwe has characteristics that denote bad land governance. These characteristics continue to worsen tenure insecurity, mainly in 99-year leasehold tenure. Tenure insecurity, particularly eviction risks, undermines investor confidence. Limited investor confidence continues to undermine realization of Malabo Declaration targets. Land governance issues that undermine investor confidence need to be mainstreamed. Recommendations have been made for the mainstreaming of land governance in the 2nd Zimbabwe Agricultural Investment Program (ZAIP). Among these is the enhancement of stakeholder participation in policy preparation, implementation, and monitoring, as such participation is expected to improve policy accountability, transparency, and tenure security. Another key recommendation is the improvement of tenure security, which is expected to improve investor confidence raising opportunities to achieve the Malabo Declaration targets. Gabon: The coexistence of modern and customary land law on the one hand, and the existence of a multiplicity of competent institutions on the other, complicates land governance to the point of constituting constraints that hinder the management of land and, consequently, the practice of secure family farming. In addition, the lack of a central land registry contributes to the fact that the acquisition of a plot of land remains a major difficulty for many Gabonese, but since December 2011, the Gabonese government has initiated, with the support of its technical and financial partners, a series of actions to promote responsible land governance. The recommendations of the report of the study conducted on "the national evaluation of land tenure governance in the NAIP in Gabon" translated into concrete proposals have been integrated by the Ministry of Agriculture in the strategy document of the NIPA 2 with the support of the SLGA program. The implementation of these actions will facilitate greater implementation of the MALABO principles.

**Cameroon:** The analysis indicates that land governance in Cameroon is essentially dominated by the logic of state control. With regard to the institutional system, there is limited transparency, weak monitoring and evaluation mechanisms and weak institutional coordination. Moreover, land tenure policy, which has remained

static, tends to conflict with most sectoral policies relating to the use of space and natural resources. Thus, there are legal loopholes and contradictions that incidentally justify land and resource use conflicts with other sectors, which are detrimental to the development of an integrated approach to agriculture promoted in the Rural Sector Development Strategy, the NAIP and the Malabo Declaration. The analysis of the eight (08) orientations of the Malabo Declaration shows that six (06) of them have links with elements of land governance, covering access to land, land status and land tenure of vulnerable groups, land management planning, inter-sectoral coordination and cooperation, land transactions and governance monitoring.

However, actual, and potential responses are provided to correct these shortcomings in the recommendations

made at the end of the study conducted on the evaluation of land governance in the NAIP in Cameroon with the support of SLGA GIZ Programme. These recommendations have been forwarded to the government for consideration.

**Conclusion:** To ensure success of the Malabo declaration, it is crucial for the countries to mainstream land governance into their relevant natural resources management related policies. Governments need to demonstrate strong commitments to national priorities. A strong political will is required in order to mainstream land governance into the NAIP's. Governments are encouraged to engage in research based-policy formulation. Land information must be accessible. Improved tenure security has potential to improve investor confidence, raising opportunities to achieve the Malabo declaration targets.

**Collaborative Research on Land Governance**

**Study on Oil Prospecting in Kavango East and West: Implications on Land Governance: Pre-Field trip report**  
*by Sam Mwando (Namibia University of Science and Technology) and Theodor Muduva (NELGA Southern Africa)*

**Background:** Recently, various media houses have revealed that an international firm called Recon Africa was granted a prospecting licence by the Ministry of Mines and Energy. The company is currently prospecting for oil and gas in Kavango East and West regions. These revelations have attracted criticism from some community members, unions, civil society organisations, international figures, and celebrities and most especially from both local and international environmentalists. The bone of contention revolves around the impact on the environment since these operations are taking place in a sensitive ecosystem. Another concern is around how this exploration project will affect the livelihoods of the local communities. Importantly, how will the exploration activities and eventual abstraction of oil/gas affect the livelihoods and, land and resource rights of local communities? As a result, the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) through the Network of Excellence on Land Governance in Africa (NELGA) has embarked upon a study aimed at understanding the implications of oil and gas exploration activities on Land Governance by Recon Africa.

**Stakeholder consultations:** A pre-field trip was undertaken on 30 May – 06 June 2021 to Kavango East Region. The pre-field trip was undertaken by two researchers (Sam Mwando and Theodor Muduva). The purpose of the pre-field trip was as follows; 1) To consult various stakeholders and obtain the views on the issues at hand, 2) Test the questionnaires and 3) to establish the groundwork for a detailed research proposal.

Brief discussions were held with stakeholders including relevant government offices, representatives of Recon Africa, community members in the affected areas and other relevant stakeholders. The team managed to conduct about 10 meetings with the (Representatives from) following stakeholders and institutions: Ministry of Environment, Tourism and Forestry (METF), Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform (MAWLR), Ministry of Urban and Rural Development (MURD)/Regional Council, Ncaute Community Forest (including community members at Ncaute village), Recon Africa, Community members and Village Development Committee (VDC) at Mbambi village and Shambyu Traditional Authority. Apart from the interviews and consultations, the team also visited two explorations sites in the Kavango East Region namely: Kawe and Mbambi.

**Way forward:** The team will present the findings of this pre-field trip to NELGA partners to solicit input for the detail proposal which will culminate to a collaborative research of same.

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# 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.

# Future Activities

- MOU's with partners
- Policy dialogues
- Collaborative Research on Land Governance

# Meetings

**05 February 2021 – Main Objectives:** NELGA Management meeting (on-line) held on 05 February 2021. The meeting was attended by Mr. Muduva, Prof Katjiua, Issa and Muna. The aim was to reflect on the workplan (July 2020-December 2021) and to discuss implementation of specific activities.

**19 February 2021 – Main objectives:** NELGA Workplan 2021 and activities meeting held online. The meeting took place on 19 February 2021. The aim of the on-line meeting was to discuss the workplan and activities for NELGA Southern Africa node. The meeting was organised by Desire (NELGA Secretariat) and attended by Prof Katjiua, Mr. Issa, and Theodor

**08 March 2021 – Main objectives:** DLPS departmental meeting (on-line) on 08 March 2021 and provided an update on the upcoming NELGA activities. Attended by all DLPS staff members.

**10 March 2021 – Main objectives:** 2nd NELGA Management meeting for 2021. The virtual meeting was attended by Prof Katjiua, Stephnie, Theodor, Issa and Muna. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss progress on the MOU with partners and determine the way forward.

**15 March 2021 – Main objectives:** The 3rd NELGA Management meeting held on 15 March 2021 (On-line). Meeting attended by Prof Katjiua, Theodor, Muna, Issa and Sam (guest). The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the progress made on the "On-line course on Land Governance and Corruption".  
**11 June 2021 – Main objectives:** Bilateral meeting between Theodor and Prof Katjiua to discuss the following; SLGA Mission, Kavango Oil study-travel and concept note content, Research committee meeting.

# 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.



# NELGA Core Team



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