



NAMIBIA  
UNIVERSITY  
OF SCIENCE AND  
TECHNOLOGY



Southern African Node

# Official Launch of the Network of Excellence on Land Governance in Africa (NELGA) Southern Africa

## Concept Note

**Network of Excellence for Land Governance in Africa (NELGA)** is a partnership of leading African universities and research institutions with proven leadership in education, training and research on land governance. The purpose of NELGA is to enhance the role of selected African Universities and academic institutions in support of land policy development, implementation and monitoring.

The **Department of Land and Property Sciences (DLPS)** at the **Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST)** together with the **Integrated Land Management Institute (ILMI)** are at the forefront of research and outreach in the field of land governance and administration and has been selected by the African Union through the Land Policy Initiative (LPI) as a Centre of Excellence in Land Governance for Africa.

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## 1. BACKGROUND

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. NUST was selected as a NELGA Southern Africa Node. Partner institutions from both academia and research were identified. The concept note for the NELGA node was completed. The concept note details the work plan in line with the work packages. The NUST/GIZ grant agreement was signed July/August 2017, which signalled the start for full implementation of the NELGA activities. One of the main areas of SLGA is the establishment of an African **Network of Excellence on Land Governance (NELGA)** under the leadership of ALPC, this then speaks to Work Package A; “Establish a regional node for NELGA in Southern Africa at the Department of Land and Property Studies (LPS) at NUST”. It should be read with Work Package C; “Educational and activities” and C3 “Introduction and promotion of NELGA node in the region”. In line with the said work packages NUST will officially launch NELGA on 19 – 23 February 2018 at the NUST Hotel School in Windhoek, Namibia. The two-day programme will also include other NELGA activities such as; Scoping Study, Master Class on Land Governance and the discussion on or signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with partner institutions for sustainable cooperation.

## 2. THE MAIN ACTIVITIES AT THE NELGA EVENT

### 2.1 The Official Launch of NELGA

The two-day event will include various activities in line with the work plan of the node. The primary activity is the **Launch of the NELGA** node in fulfilment of Work Packages A and C.

### 2.2 The Scoping Study

One of the key indicators for SLGA is A3 “20 Best practices and lessons learned” of participating universities in the area of land management and land policy are being disseminated regionally through NELGA. This will involve the identification of areas of expertise of the various universities and research institutions within the nodes. For example, NUST itself has a strong profile on research and policy linkages due to the long-term advice to the land reform process in Namibia and beyond. In line with the Work Package A (A4 – 6), the **Scoping Study** will be tabled to solicit input from the potential partner institutions.

### 2.3 Master Class

One of the key activities will be conducting of a Master Class in line with Work Package D; “Conduct Policy Dialogues”. The **Master Class** will have a specific focus on Land Governance, which then fulfills Work Package C (C4); “Land Governance Training”.

### 2.4 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

The node has also planned to discuss the **MoU for Cooperation** with partner institutions and there is a possibility of signing some MoUs during the course of the two-day event.

### 3. INVITED INSTITUTIONS

NUST is envisaging to invite up to more than 77 delegates to attend the two-day event. The delegates will come from relevant institutions in Namibia, SADC and Ethiopia. The following institutions will be represented at the launch; Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST - DLPS, FNRSS, Dean, etc.), University of Namibia (UNAM), Ministry of Land Reform (MLR), Legal Assistance Centre (LAC), GIZ – Support to Land Reform, GIZ – Windhoek Office, GIZ – African Union Office (SLGA), Media (The Namibian, NBC, etc.) and selected universities in SADC (Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Botswana, South Africa, etc.) and other research institutions.

Table 1: Number of Participants

| Institution/Department/Sector  | Number of Participants |
|--|------------------------|
| Department of Land and Property Sciences (DLPS), NUST                      | 12                     |
| Dean of the Faculty of Natural Resources and Spatial Sciences, NUST        | 3                      |
| Faculty of Natural Resources and Spatial Sciences (FNRSS), NUST            | 15                     |
| Academia and Research Institutions, Windhoek                               | 15                     |
| Academic Institutions, SADC Countries                                      | 16                     |
| Non-academic Institutions  | 7                      |
| Media (Including the Department of Marketing and Communication (DCM), NUST | 5                      |
| GIZ – SLR  | 1                      |
| GIZ – Namibia  | 1                      |
| GIZ – SLGA   | 1                      |
| African Land Policy Centre (ALPC)  | 1                      |
| DAAD Scholarship Holders   | 5                      |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>77</b>              |

### 4. CONCLUSION

In order to fully appreciate this brief concept note, it is advisable to read it with the initial concept note for the node which details the work packages and work plan (see attached NELGA Concept Note and Program for the launch of NELGA).