

Report on SLGA Study Tour on Land Policy and Land Governance in Germany, September 9-20, 2018

By Elina Teodol (Department of LPS/NUST – Jnr Lecturer)

The GIZ program “**Strengthening Advisory Capacities for Land governance in Africa (SLGA)**” organised a 10 days study tour for NELGA partners and focal persons from the national ministries to gain an overview on land governance practices in Germany and information exchange.

The study tour took place between **9 - 20 September 2018**. In total 15 participants were invited. The study tour took place in **Eschborn, Frankfurt, Feldafing, Munich, Bavaria, Urspring and Berlin** to ensure widespread dissemination across Germany, and, at the same time, to ensure great experiences on the processes of shaping and implementation of land policies in Germany. The study tour has been organized in collaboration with the local, federal and state government, German experts and practitioners.

The sessions were mostly on instruments and tools for land policy and land administration in Germany

– including an overview of the technologies used. During the tour, the team and experts leading the tour were involved and lead the participants to studies areas, this allowed to integrate the informative approach of sessions with ad hoc presentations both on the land governance practices and the study areas. The visit to Bavarian State Office for Digitalization and Broadband Surveying offices were an inspiration and provided information on the cadastre and Atlas of Bavaria cultural heritage.

Participants were given an opportunity to reflect on the specific approaches for land policy and land governance in their home countries at the various platform and this was done successfully. The Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) was represented **by Elina Teodol (Jnr Lecturer) and Mr Charl Thom Bayer both from the Department of Land and Property Sciences**. Mr Bayer presented a paper on “Land Reform and Good Governance- land reform initiatives in Namibia and Land governance in Southern Africa”.

Aside from visiting different German institutions, the participants were afforded an opportunity to attend a symposium at the Technical University in Munich (TUM) - part of the ADLAND consortium – which was organized to highlight and discuss key issues of land governance in Africa considering research results of the participants’ home universities in Africa as well as European experiences, best practices and research results. In addition, the participants representing academia were given a chance to present their research focus to a wide range of stakeholders from Germany and Europe dealing with land governance issues. Included in the symposium meeting was a panel discussion centered on the question of how to facilitate policy-research linkages through a closer collaboration of academia, non-academic research institutions and the policy and administrative level.

Lastly, during the study tour in Germany, we learned more about the specific role of science and research, politics, public administration and business associations in land governance processes in Germany and appreciated the exchange of information with other participants. Furthermore, we got the opportunity to see breath-taking views of Bavaria and Frankfurt landscapes. This included a tour of the famous vineyards where we got to walk through the vineyards. Therefore, this tour was a very valuable experience in being able to gain information on land governance and meeting various experts in Germany.



Photo 1: NELGA partners and focal persons from the national ministries and academic institutions