

BRIEF REPORT: THE ADLAND RESEARCH WRITESHOP (WORKSHOP)

1. BACKGROUND

The Advancing Collaborative Research in Responsible and Smart Land Management in and for Africa (ADLAND) in collaboration with NUST as a NELGA node organized a research writeshop workshop in Windhoek, Namibia. The writeshop was held at Namibia University of Science and Technology, from 20- 23 August 2018. This Workshop designed as a Research writeshop on the theme of Urban Development, was conducted by ADLAND Staff (Prof. Rohan Bennet-SWU; Dr. Pamela Duran Diaz-TUM; Dr. Markus Schaffert-LUH). It was meant for academics and researchers in the process of preparing a paper/book chapter to be submitted. The Research Writeshop was attended by academics and researchers from academic institutions from the following Southern African countries; Namibia, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi and Botswana. The 19 participants who attended the workshop represented the following academic institutions; Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST), University of Namibia (UNAM), University of Zimbabwe, The Polytechnic University of Malawi, University of Botswana, University of Zambia (UNZA) and University of Lusaka.

2. AIMS:

- To connect researchers from different institutes In order to write scientific articles jointly in an effective manner
- To improve the quality and quantity of (joint) research papers, peer –reviewed articles and scientific book chapters
- To increase scientific visibility and citations of ADLAND/NELGA node researchers
- To prepare a research paper and /or book chapter for the upcoming ADLAND conference and shared book publication

3. OBJECTIVES

During the workshop participants were to:

- Discuss and share experiences in writing scientific research papers efficiently and effectively
- Discuss and compare different styles of scientific papers (e.g. review articles, position papers, quantitative/qualitative/mixed papers)
- Design a research paper, in the form of a typical peer-review article
- Create and refine a key message for a scientific paper
- Find a joint topic of interest for a joint paper
- Write an outline for a joint article
- Write a comparative article
- Write a review article
- Prepare an article optimally before a submission
- Conduct an effective peer-review process
- Handling comments from reviewers effectively
- Compare international scientific journals in the field of land management, land policy, land use planning, land governance and land administration
- Select the appropriate journal for article publication
- Discuss and share experiences in writing and/ or supervising article-based PHD thesis
- Discuss how to prepare special issues of scientific journals

4. TOPICS COVERED

The workshop covered many and the detailed descriptions of the issues covers were as follows:

4.1 Topic/Team /outlet selection

- The participants gave clarity on the topics they are working on, and the intended idea of where and when their output will be delivered.

4.2 The Elevator Pitch

- All the participants prepared an elevator Pitch (Abstract) of their paper and gave feedback individually in the form of presentations.
- Micro writing outline for the researchers, where they formulated research aims and objectives and key research questions for the research papers and the PHD students took time to refine their proposals.

4.3 Literature Review / Background

- Discussions were on the structure of a scientific paper. The participants were tasked to build a database for the literature review by updating on the existing content.

4.4 Methods and Materials

- After the discussions around Research methods and materials, participants were given time to construct methods and materials outlined in the abstract that was presented.

4.5 Discussions and Reviews

- Discussions on review of papers (tool box for review)
- The participants were tasked to exchange their files for reviews among themselves. This was followed by giving feedback on the reviewing of papers and sharing of experiences by participants.

5. CONCLUSION AND WAYFOWARD

- The participants were urged to remain in contact with ADLAND facilitators
- Participants were encouraged to make use of the what they had during the workshop
- ADLAND to organize staff experts to work on the participants papers and offer help throughout to get the papers published