

Draft Concept Note:

Continental NELGA Research Event

**“Strengthening policy-research linkages on land governance in Africa”
under the theme: “Land governance as a driver for sustainable socio-
economic development”**

November 19-23, 2018

Venue: Bahir Dar

**Organized in collaboration with NELGA partners, ADLAND, the World Bank and GIZ
SLGA**

(I) Background

According to the African Union (AU), land plays a pivotal role in the political and socio-economic development of African countries. Hence, land has become a key object of multidisciplinary research and discussion in Africa. The African Land Policy Center (ALPC), the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), and the World Bank are working together to strengthen advisory capacities for land governance on the continent under the program “Strengthening Advisory Capacities for Land Governance in Africa” (SLGA), financed by the Government of Germany’s Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). SLGA is a program implemented by GIZ, as part of the BMZ special initiative “One World – No Hunger” to support the implementation of the AU Agenda on Land. The overall objective of SLGA is to strengthen the human and institutional capacities required to realize sustainable land policies that pay attention to the rights of marginalized groups such as small-scale farmers, pastoralists and women across Africa.

One of the main areas of action for SLGA is the establishment and coordination of the Network of Excellence on Land Governance in Africa (NELGA) under the leadership of the ALPC. NELGA is a partnership of more than 50 African universities and research institutions with proven leadership and track record in education, training and research on land governance. Its primary purpose is to enhance the role of African universities and research institutions in supporting land policy development, implementation and monitoring. SLGA supports NELGA partner institutions to further enhance collaborative and practice-oriented research on key problems of land governance in Africa. The objective is to generate high quality research products and translate analytical findings into operational engagement, thus driving evidence-informed policies on land governance.

Various data collection efforts, land governance assessments, impact evaluations and monitoring activities, as well as initiatives working towards the analytical support of land policy innovations and pilots, have been pursued under the SLGA initiative. In addition, innovative topics have been investigated by NELGA scholars along with partner research institutes - including the “Advancing collaborative research in responsible and smart land management in and for Africa” (ADLAND) project and the African Economic Research Consortium (AERC) - and national statistics agencies, with analytical support from the World Bank.

This rich network and expertise provide an excellent opportunity to bring together and share new research methodologies, progress in data availability, analytical tools and research findings in relation to policy and emerging lessons. Therefore, a joint continental research event is planned for November 2018 with the aim to bring the SLGA-supported research initiatives and NELGA network members together, facilitate sharing of findings, gather experiences working with policy agenda development and explore pathways towards better coordination. In addition, research workshops and trainings on research methodology and/or impact evaluation will be offered as side-events by ADLAND/WB.

The 5 day event shall include 1 day of training on new research methodologies conducted by the World Bank who will also present latest country level research activities; 2 days of research paper presentations from NELGA hubs and scholarship holders, and workshops to discuss topics such as research approaches, engaging with policy makers and communicating findings; and finally a 2 day research development workshop conducted by ADLAND.

(II) Objectives

SLGA is supporting data generation and policy-oriented research in support to strengthening land governance with the use of rigorous methodologies, which are thereafter discussed, along with findings, with stakeholders and policy makers, and widely disseminated throughout the network. Many result in papers for publication in peer reviewed journals of NELGA nodes (such as the in the African Journal of Geospatial Sciences and Land Governance). The aim of organizing such a research event is to enable researchers / academia and implementing institutions to communicate research findings and methods for policy advice.

Policy-oriented research methods training will be provided, exploring the use of new data sources and methodologies, elaborating new impact evaluation approaches and combining datasets to assess land tenure security training in scientific research.

Therefore, the research event will play an important role in providing capacity building measures, assisting NELGA research in presenting findings to the NELGA community, and linking land related research to government decision-making bodies for sustainable land policy development across Africa.

The overall objectives of this research event are:

- To present NELGA-related research activities and results;
- To create an enabling environment for communication on research outputs between and among researchers, academia and government bodies;
- To provide capacity building and training in new research methodologies and/or impact evaluation techniques to NELGA stakeholders;
- To explore approaches for establishing policy-research linkages;
- To organize and summarize evidence-based research recommendations;
- To capture lessons learned and good practices to be used for future research activities.

(III) Approach

This continental research event will be organized jointly by SLGA and ADLAND in collaboration with NELGA nodes and the WB.

a. Research conference and paper presentation

- 8 to 10 papers from NELGA universities are expected to be presented and discussed during this event (in addition, 3 to 4 will be from NELGA scholarship holders who are close to finalizing their theses).
- A special call for abstract/Article will be prepared by GIZ-SLGA and send to each node (**4th week of August**). Primary selection of abstracts for papers will be handled by respective NELGA nodes in collaboration with Regional GIZ-SLGA advisors.
- Each node will send the special call and communicate to their respective network members and stakeholders (**by first week of September**). Nodes in collaboration with the GIZ- regional

advisors will collect articles as per the call. Selection will be made by the respective nodes and 2 to 3 abstracts/articles per node will be selected. Nodes in collaboration with the regional node advisors will send the abstracts/articles to the GIZ-AU SLGA program office **(to be finalized by the 4th week of September)**. This will amount to 10 to 15 abstract in total. The exact number of papers which will be presented will be determined then depending on the budget and further discussion with the nodes, ADLAND, WB and ALPC.

- For selection each node can set their own criteria based on the call and purpose in this CN. They will communicate to GIZ AU SLGA program and select paper presenters. **Gender inclusiveness in selection of topics and authors is highly encouraged.**
- Papers are expected to be in line with the theme “**Land as a driver for sustainable socio-economic development** “. The papers will be discussed with the emphasis on its importance for further policy dialogue and on how best to build research-policy linkages. Submitted papers cannot already be published. Please refer to the Special Call for Research Articles for further details.
- There will be a discussion between SLGA and the North Africa NELGA node to consider their publication in the **African Journal of Geospatial and Land Governance Journal (NELGA research Journal)**.
- Depending on the discussion outcome, the African Journal of Geospatial and Land Governance Journal editorial board will look over the papers meeting the required standards with double blind review for publishing in the NELGA research journal.
- Implementing government institutions representatives will be invited for research policy linkage dialogues **(2-3 per node)**. Associated budget for this purpose will be covered.

b. Training event

- The training event will be organized by the World Bank. The training may focus on new research methodologies and/or impact evaluation techniques. The specific topics and agenda will be provided by Thea (WB).
- The training outline and schedule is to be communicated to SLGA by the World bank latest by **mid-September**.

c. Research development workshop event

- The research management workshops will be organized by ADLAND. The workshops will focus on strengthening demand-driven research on land for policy advice in Africa under the theme: “**Strengthening policy-research linkages on land governance in Africa** “. ADLAND will in addition deliver activities that are specific to the context of NELGA.
- Likewise, ADLAND will also prepare the content outline and schedule for research Management Workshop event latest by **mid-September**.

d. General

- During each event, the way forward regarding research gaps in land-related issues, follow up needs, approaches and methods will be discussed. This will help to scrutinize issues that need further development.
- The event will be documented for knowledge management and communication purposes under the supervision of the SLGA Knowledge Management and Communication officer.

IV. Participants

The event will bring together relevant NELGA partners and stakeholders. Participants will be from NELGA lead partners and universities, implementing government institutions, ALPC, WB, ADLAND, NEPAD and GIZ. The communication language for this event will be **English**.

The research event will host up to 82 participants:

	Participants	Research Training (World Bank) 19/11/2018	Research Conference 20-21/11/2018	Research Development Workshop (ADLAND) 22-23/11/2018	Sponsor
(I)	NELGA (30)				
	NELGA node representatives (4 days, 2 per node)		10	10	SLGA
	Selected young NELGA university representatives (4per node -1 days)	20			ADLAND
	Additional selected NELGA university representatives useful for ADLAND training (2 per node -1 days) and yo			15	
	Selected research paper presenters (Each node selects = 2)		10		
	NELGA Scholarship holders (1 PhD student for each NELGA DAAD to attend the conference (2 days)		5		ADLAND
	Final scholarship holders to present research results (3 days)		4		SLGA
(II)	Government and research institutions				
	Government institutions representatives from land sector from countries where NELGA research conducted (2 per hub- 1 from node + one additional hub representative) (2 days)		10 to 15		SLGA
(III)	Other partner organizations				
	NEPAD representatives (4 day)		2	2?	NEPAD
	Representatives of ALPC (4 days)		2	2?	ALPC
	SLGA main office (4) and 5 SLGA regional advisors (5days)		9	9?	SLGA
	ADLAND(4 days)		4	4?	ADLAND
	WB research personnel (5 days)	2	2	2?	WB
	GLTN (2 days)	tbd	1	tbd	GLTN
	IFPRI (2 days)		1	1	
	RCMRD (2 days)	tbd	1	tbd	RCMRD
	AERC (4 days)	tbd	2	2	AERC
	Hosted country participants from Government, academia and research institutions(Local) 2 days	5	10		ADLAND
		27	73 Up to 78	25 to 37	

SLGA will fund and organise logistics for up to 30 participants attending the research event; ADLAND will pool resources for 20 international, 25 local participants and ADLAND representatives. In addition, ADLAND is also responsible for the organisation of the research paper workshop. The World Bank will be responsible for organizing the research methodology side-event.

V. Event description, place/location and duration

The event will be a five day event in total and be conducted from the 19th to the 23rd November 2018. It will include:

- **19th of November:** A one (1) day training session to be conducted by the World Bank with NELGA partners. The WB is responsible for handling this event. Precise topics will be determined by the WB.
- **20th & 21st November:** A two (2) day research presentation and discussion event. The event will take place on the second and third day of the week and GIZ-SLGA is responsible for organizing it.
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- **22nd & 23rd November:** A two (2) day Research Development Workshop to be conducted by ADLAND with NELGA partners. Topics for the discussion mainly focus on setting the scene towards strengthening demand-driven research on land for policy advice in Africa. Specific agenda for this session will be drafted and managed by the ADLAND group.

VI. Expected outputs

This Regional/Continental research event is expected to facilitate the delivery of the following outputs:

- Research papers are presented, discussed and research gaps are identified for further policy briefing
- Various researchers, scholarship holders and government institutions across the continent share ideas and learn from/with each other
- NELGA stakeholders and partners are equipped with new research methodology knowledge
- Lessons learned and good practices deriving from the event are captured and shared with NELGA partner institutions.

VII. Possible topics for presentation

(I) Research conference (paper presentation)

- Topics to be added after abstract identified
- Selected research articles
- Research outcomes from NELGA scholarship and fellowship holders
- African Journal on Land Policy
- LGAF
- National Agricultural Investment Plan (NAIP) country assessments
- Monitoring & Evaluation for Land Administration (MELA)
- Data repository
- World Bank activities (impact evaluations, household surveys, large farm surveys, etc.)
- (preliminary) results of research scoping studies from NELGA nodes
- ADLAND research activities (joint publications, research on responsible land management, research capacity building measures, etc.)

(II) Research Development /management workshop

- : Overarching theme: **Strengthening policy-research linkages on land governance in Africa**, precise topics TBD by the ADLAND

(III) **Training sessions**

- **Research Methodology, Impact evaluation study or other topics TBD with the World Bank.**

VIII. Follow-up Plan Table

No	Activities	Time frame				Responsible
		Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	
1	Final Concept note shared by SLGA, ADLAND, ALPC and the WB	4 th W				Tenaw Hailu -TH,
2	SLGA, The WB and ADLAND develop draft out line and prepare sessions and training as agreed in consultation with NELGA nodes:	4 th W	1 st W			TH- SLGA, Thea H-WB and Pamela-ADLAND
3	Call for article prepared by GIZ-SLGA and send to each node		1 st W			Lullit G, TH
4	Each node sends the call and communicate to their respective network members and stake holders		4 th W			NELGA nodes and all Regional SLGA Advisors (RSA)
5	Nodes in collaboration with the regional node advisors send to the GIZ-AU SLGA program office			2 nd W		NELGA nodes and all Regional SLGA Advisors (RSA)
6	Identify participants for research and training session		4 th W	1 st -4 th W		WB(Thea), ADLAND (Pamela), SLGA(TH)
7	Detailed program of the event prepared in consultation with ALPC, ADLAND, NELGA node/SLGA regional advisors and the WB.		3 rd W	2 nd W		Lullit G, TH
8	Identify invitees and send letter of invitation and follow up of logistic and visa, transport and other arrangements		3 rd W	2 nd -4 th W		TH, TS
9	Visit venue at BD, handle the necessary payments, and confirmation of event venue, recruit facilitator for research conference for the event facilitation support (3 rd W	1 st - 2 nd W		TS, LG&TH
10	Send the invitation and necessary communication on logistic to the participants		4 th W	1 st - 3 rd W	1 st W	TS, LG
11	Follow up and organization of the event			4 th W	1 st W	LG, TS &TH
12	Preparation of format and template for KM & communication			4 th W	1 st W	LG