



# Regional Scoping Study on Land Governance (RSSLG)

## 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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**ABBREVIATIONS**

ALPC	African Land Policy Centre
AU	African Union
CSSLG	Country Scoping Study on Land Governance
DLPS	Department of Land and Property Studies
NELGA	Network of Excellence on Land Governance in Africa
NRSLG	National Scoping Study on Land Governance
NUST	Namibia University of Science and Technology
RRSSLG	Regional Scoping Study on Land Governance
PLAAS	Institute for Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies
SMIAS	Sam Moyo Institute of Agrarian Studies
UB	University of Botswana
UCT	University of Cape Town
UNAM	University of Namibia
UP	University of Pretoria
UNZA	University of Zambia
UWC	University of the Western Cape
Uzim	University of Zimbabwe

## 1. BACKGROUND

To strengthen human and institutional capacities for the implementation of the AU agenda on land, the African Land Policy Centre (ALPC) in cooperation with Germany, World Bank and other partners established the Network of Excellence on Land Governance in Africa (NELGA)<sup>1</sup>. NELGA is a partnership of leading African universities and research institutions with proven leadership in education, training and research on land governance<sup>2</sup>. NUST was selected as a NELGA Southern Africa Node, because of its proven leadership and track record in academic education, training and research on land governance. The node was launched on 19 February 2018, although it was operational since June 2017.

Through a series of planning meetings and consultations, the node developed a comprehensive operational concept note (including a work plan) (see annex A). One of the key activities to be carried out under work package A “Establish a regional node for NELGA Southern Africa”, is carrying out a “scoping study” for the NELGA Southern Africa node. Through a subsequent series of meetings and consultations within NUST and with regional partners, the node developed a comprehensive concept note on the Regional Research Scoping Study (RRSS). One of the major outputs of these consultations is the list of key land governance issues in Southern Africa (see annex B).

The Department of Land and Property Studies (DLPS) at NUST during its “Research and Capacity Building” meetings scheduled 3-13 April 2018 resolved on 10 April 2018 to conduct Regional Research Scoping Study which will culminate into a Land Governance conference in April 2019<sup>3</sup>. The approach to this conference will be discussed in detail below.

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<sup>1</sup> Factsheet – Introduction to NELGA

<sup>2</sup> Factsheet – Introduction to NELGA

<sup>3</sup> DLPS Research and Capacity Development meeting, 12 April 2018

## 2. OBJECTIVES

The NELGA southern African node will facilitate the implementation of a Land Governance Regional Research Scoping Study. The main objectives of the study are as follows<sup>4</sup>;

- (1) explore the most important issues related to land governance in Southern Africa,
- (2) identify contribution of academia to sustainable land policy in Southern Africa, and
- (3) determine best practices and lessons learnt.

Furthermore, this exercise will lead to increased understanding of the partner institutions. The study findings will be used to enhance effective implementation of NELGA activities.

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<sup>4</sup> Concept note – Preliminary Scoping Study, April 2018

### 3. METHODS AND APPROACHES

Selected academic institutions which are NELGA partners in Southern Africa will participate in this study. NUST as a node have selected 10 member countries in Southern Africa to participate in this study<sup>5</sup>, a team of each country is expected to participate in the study. Some countries have more than one member academic institutions, therefore it will be the task of the representative of each country to constitute a study team<sup>6</sup>. Each study team will have a team leader and each study team will ideally have two or more people. Once the teams are in place each country will conduct a Country or National Research Scoping Study on Land Governance [NRSSLG]<sup>7</sup>.

Based on LGAF NUST has developed a research template which will be used by each study team when conducting their scoping study. The template has two major sections: (A) Description and analysis of land governance framework (about 15 pages), which includes country information, institutional framework, legal framework on land tenure, land dispute resolution, valuation and taxation, land use planning and control, management of public land and land information; and (B) Identification of key land governance issues/challenges, which (10 pages)<sup>8</sup> deals with country-specific information and some of the issues that have been raised by member institutions in previous consultations<sup>9</sup>. These sections are explained in detailed in the research template (Annex C). Each country is expected to produce a 25-page report, which will ultimately translate into a 300-page book.

There will be occasions when study teams will meet in a selected country (at a NELGA partner institution) to give feedback and discuss challenges associated to their respective studies. The node will have/facilitate familiarization trips to the study teams to observe the situations on the ground and provide guidance were necessary. The research teams will be expected to produce abstracts before commencing with the research<sup>10</sup> and present it and their approach at the Regional Workshop. The study teams will then conduct their research and compile their country scoping studies. An editorial committee will be constituted with representatives from NELGA to assist with reviewing the abstracts and the draft country reports to ensure that they are line with the research template and most importantly to make sure that they meet agreed professional and academic standards<sup>11</sup>.

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<sup>5</sup> DLPS Research and Capacity Development meeting, 12 April 2018

<sup>6</sup> DLPS Research and Capacity Development meeting, 12 April 2018

<sup>7</sup> DLPS Research and Capacity Development meeting, 12 April 2018

<sup>8</sup> Research template for country scoping study

<sup>9</sup> Concept note – Preliminary Scoping Study, April 2018

<sup>10</sup> DLPS Research and Capacity Development meeting, 12 April 2018

<sup>11</sup> DLPS Research and Capacity Development meeting, 12 April 2018

#### 4. PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS

The node has engaged various strategies and platforms to identify partner institutions in the region. These included review of existing contacts, conferences and side events<sup>12</sup>. Apart from the existing partners, the node will use this study to reach out to potential partners. Hence for the purpose of this study the node has selected the following academic institutions (by country)<sup>13</sup>;

- **Namibia** [Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) and the University of Namibia (UNAM)]
- **Zimbabwe** [University of Zimbabwe (UZim) and Sam Moyo Institute of Agrarian Studies (SMIAS)]
- **Botswana** [University of Botswana (UB) and Ba Isago University]
- **South Africa** [University of the Western Cape (UWC)- Institute of Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies (PLAAS), University of Pretoria (UP), University of Cape Town (UCT) and the University of Venda]
- **Malawi** [University of Malawi and the Polytechnic University of Malawi]
- **Zambia** [University of Zambia (UNZA), Copperbelt University Kitwe and the University of Lusaka]
- **Mozambique** [Polytechnic University of Mozambique]
- **Angola**
- **eSwatini** [former Kingdom of Swaziland]
- **Lesotho** [University of Lesotho]

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<sup>12</sup> Concept note – Preliminary Scoping Study, April 2018

<sup>13</sup> DLPS Research and Capacity Development meetings, 10 & 12 April 2018

## 5. THE TIMELINE

The main activities leading to the conference on Regional Scoping Study on Land Governance (RSSLG) have been identified; these are: Development of a revised concept note (proposal); Regional workshop to discuss the research template; Regional visits to participating academic institutions; Submissions of draft country scoping reports; Reviewing of the reports by the editorial committee; Submission of final papers, detailed analysis and assessment of the main regional report; and the Conference on Land Governance<sup>14</sup>. The timeline is illustrated in the diagram 1, below.

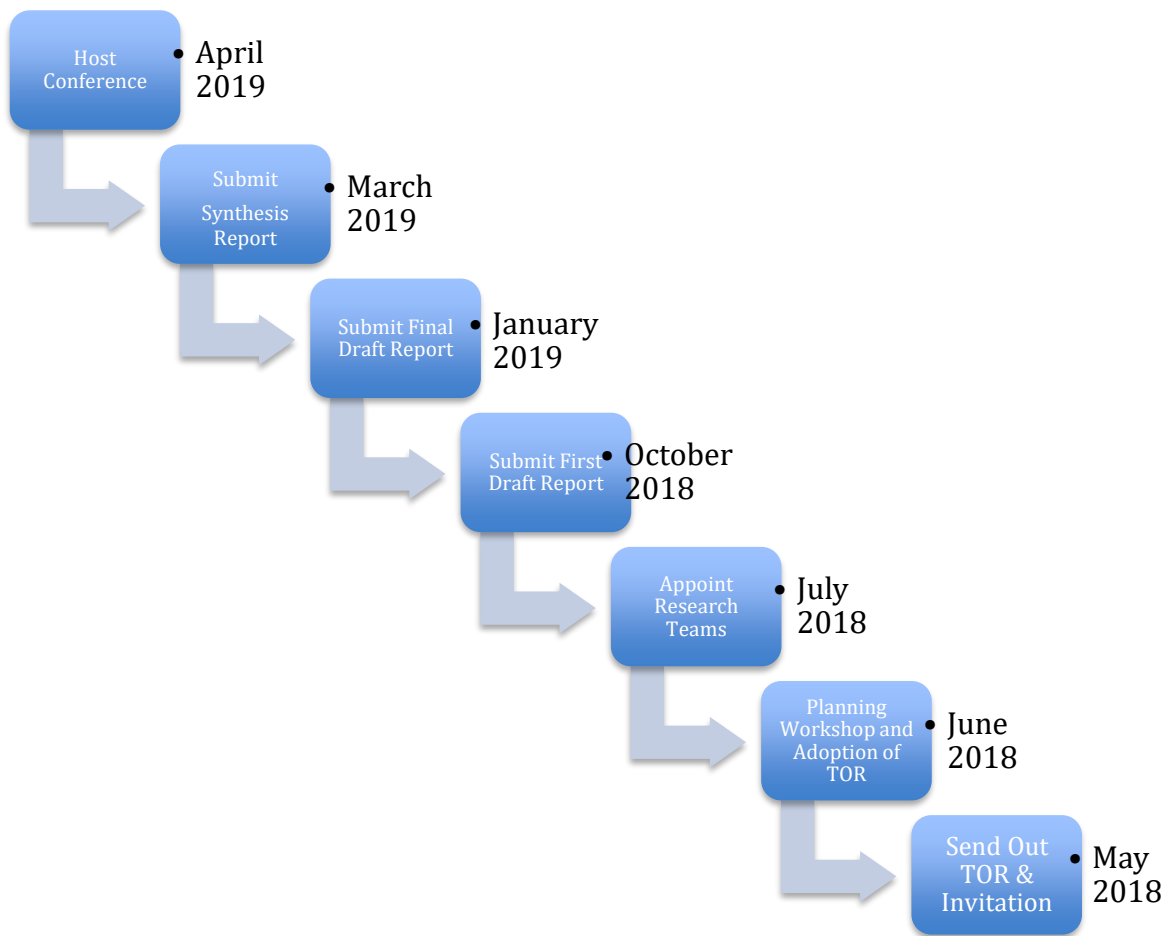
<b>Mid May 2018:</b>	Finalise the concept note and distribute for review and input.
<b>End June 2018:</b>	The node will host a regional workshop to discuss and adopt the research template with the study teams.
<b>End September 2018:</b>	The node will conduct regional visits to the study teams (and generally to follow-up on MOU's)
<b>End October 2018:</b>	Deadline for submissions of country scoping reports
<b>Week 1 November 2018:</b>	Editorial committee will review the draft country reports (Editorial committee "working week" 2018)
<b>End November 2018:</b>	?
<b>December 2018-January 2019:</b>	?
<b>February – March 2019:</b>	Detailed analysis and assessment of the main regional report
<b>April 2019:</b>	Conference on Land Governance Regional Research Scoping Study

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<sup>14</sup> DLPS Research and Capacity Development meeting, 12 April 2018



**Diagram 1: Timeline**



## 6. STUDY AND CONFERENCE OUTPUTS

The regional scoping study and conference is expected to generate various outputs. The format of these outputs will be drafted in advance, so that the coordinating body (node) can have direction and to ensure that they are comparable. These outputs will include<sup>15</sup>;

- Issue papers
- National/regional/global reports
- Policy documents
- 'Zero draft' document (before editorial committee 'working week')
- Conference documentation
- Final document adopted/discussed at the conference and
- Rapport of conference
- Other outputs (e.g. videos, posters etc.)

In summary the key outputs are; the country scoping reports and the final regional scoping report.

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<sup>15</sup> DLPS Research and Capacity Development meeting, 12 April 2018

## 7. CONCLUSION

The mode of financing the study and conference will be finalised during the regional workshop which is planned for June 2018. The following funding options are available fund the different activities related to the study and conference: the NUST and GIZ grant agreement and NELGA short-term funding (especially Accompanying measures, Research fellowships, etc.).<sup>16</sup> The funding from World Bank and GIZ for the Land Governance Assessment Framework (LGAF) continuation is also an option to consider (but only available to one country in Southern Africa). The fact that the research template has been aligned with the LGAF variables, increases the changes of this.

The conference is expected to provide important findings with regards to land governance in the region which will allow institutions to identify areas of research and submit project proposals.

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<sup>16</sup> DLPS Research and Capacity Development meeting, 12 April 2018

## 8. LIST OF ANNEXES

Annex A: Concept Note – NELGA Southern Africa

**Annex B: Concept Note – Preliminary Scoping Study**

**Annex B: Research Template for Country Scoping Study**