



OPEN LAND DATA AND MANAGING OPEN DATA REPOSITORIES WORKSHOP

REPORT 2018



REPORT ON THE 4TH IAALD AFRICA CONFERENCE AND THE OPEN LAND DATA AND MANAGING OPEN DATA REPOSITORIES WORKSHOP, PRETORIA 30 MAY -01 JUNE 2018

The 4th IAALD Africa Conference 2018 themed "Agricultural Innovations, Information and Knowledge: Catalyzing the attainment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the African Union Agenda 2063" was held between the 30th May- 01st June 2018 at the Leriba hotel, Pretoria in South Africa. The conference gave an overview on the importance of data and information and ICT in agriculture. Various presentations were done on latest research and practice on Knowledge Generation, Knowledge Management and information Sharing, involvement of Women and Youth in agriculture. Open Data and Open Science and the use ICT in Agriculture. The conference was attended by +- 200 delegates from all over the world representing governments, academia, civil society, and the private sector.

The NUST/NELGA was represented by Mr. Charl-Thom Bayer, Ms. Celina Awala, and Mr. Verinjaerako Kangotue from the Department of Land and Property Sciences (DLPS), Ms. Damalie Ethal Najjuuko from NUST library and other three delegates from NELGA partner universities in Zambia and Zimbabwe. All parties have expressed gratitude to both NUST and the NELGA project for according them the opportunity to attend and participate at this important and insightful conference and workshop.

Conferences are normally ideal platforms for networking opportunities. Apart from the conference, there were three parallel planned workshops; Knowledge Management, Monitoring and Evaluation and the Open Land Data and Managing Open Data Repositories workshop that was co-hosted by NUST-NELGA and the Land Portal. The delegates attended the workshop on Open Land Data and Managing Open Data Repositories, the conference and workshop have fostered an open atmosphere where participants meet both formally and informally and forge long lasting professional relationships. The diversity of the both conference and workshop participants presented an opportunity for a higher learning institution such as NUST to tap in the various institutions which represented both from the agricultural and Data management sectors. The main opportunities for NUST/NELGA was in the area of joint data management, data repositories and joint research projects. The experience and challenges by other institutions that have implemented open data repositories also gave a good overview of the tool and provided good capacity development for NUST/NELGA delegates.

Even though the workshop was more generic covering the issues of open data management and not subject specific, it was very informative. In addition to taking part in the deliberations at the conference and workshop, the NUST/NELGA representatives came back home with some exciting observations. For instance, the challenges that all other participants have observed with open data repositories and if open data should be free or charged at a cost recovery mode, how to communicate to data producers and how to make sure the data and information collected and stored in the repository remain relevant to the users.

The term open data was not well understood by most members and was clarified at the workshop. A number of researchers and indeed the private sector have heard off the term open data but the implementation of open data repositories faced challenges elsewhere. This concept need to be well studied and introduced in the land governance field. While this is a relatively new term within the land sector space, it certainly took prominence during the workshop proceeding.

Networking led to good discussion questions such as: 1) should NUST/NELGA implement the open data tool? 2) Should the tool be hosted by the host institution or should the tool be hosted a branch of land portal? C) Should it have a link that allow NUST/NELGA to access information from the main land portal side and vice versa? This would open both institutions to a broader scale of information accessibility.

Based on the workshop discussions, the land open data repository technology presented both challenges and opportunities for all participants at the workshop. This is very important to NUST as an academic institution that wants to assert itself as a world-class university. This equally important to the NELGA hub under the administrative arm of DLPS and all partners should consider the open data notion to be part of its research strategy.

In conclusion the NUST/NELGA team learnt through observation better ways of how to organise such workshops and conferences since the institution and project are expected to host the Regional Workshop on Land Governance Scoping Study in June 2018 and the land governance conference in April 2018.