Background

To strengthen human and institutional capacities for the implementation of the African Union’s agenda on land the African Land Policy Centre (ALPC), formerly African Land Policy Initiative (LPI), has established a Network of Excellence on Land Governance in Africa (NELGA) in cooperation with Germany, World Bank and other partners.

NELGA is a partnership of leading African universities and research institutions with proven leadership in education, training and research on land governance. Currently NELGA has more than 50 partner institutions across Africa.

For better coordination of NELGA in the different regions, a lead university has been selected for each AU region (so-called “regional nodes”) to implement and coordinate NELGA activities jointly with other NELGA institutions.

NELGA Nodes — Ardhi University

Ardhi University (ARU) in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, is one of the leading training and research institutions in the areas of land and built environment in East Africa. It offers integrated training in the entire spectrum of land based disciplines and actively supports NELGA universities in the region in developing and implementing training programs on land governance through curricula development, staff and student exchange. Against this background Ardhi university has been selected as the regional Node for Eastern Africa.

In July 2017 ARU co-organized the Eastern Africa Land Administration Network (EALAN) Conference held in Nairobi, Kenya and successfully conducted a policy dialogue session on NELGA.

To date under the NELGA scholarship programme ARU has granted 12 scholarships (10 MSc and 2 PhD) on land governance.

Activities

The key activities of the NELGA Node and partner institutions in East Africa include:

- Conducting a Regional Research Scoping Study;
- Organizing and hosting workshops for researchers and policy-makers;
- Organizing national and regional multi-stakeholder dialogues on topics related to land governance;
- Establishment of a community of practice for academics and practitioners;
- Setting up a repository for data on land related issues;
- Publishing a regional Journal on Land Governance.