IAV – NELGA Northern Africa Node

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 — IAV

The Institut Agronomique et Vétérinaire Hassan II (IAV), based in Rabat, Morocco, is one of the leading training and research institutions in the domain of land governance in Northern Africa. Within the IAV, the School of Geomatics Sciences and Topographic Engineering (SGIT - Sciences Géomatiques et Ingénierie Topographique) is continuously strengthening its curricula development in accordance to the Bologna process. The school has also developed an extended network within institutions, ministries, private sector and public agencies throughout the region. Against this background IAV has been selected as the regional Node for Eastern Africa.

At the occasion of consultative workshop organized in Rabat the 28 and 29 of March 2017, the regional NELGA node was established. It is since then coordinated by SGIT.

As part of the NELGA scholarship program, the IAV will be able to deliver scholarships on land governance starting from 2019.

The 29 and 30 of January 2018, IAV organized its first regional workshop with the topic “Training and research for Land Governance”. This workshop enabled:
- The institutionalization of IAV as the regional NELGA node for Northern Africa
- Bringing the network members together to work on the workshop topic
- Raising the awareness of the participants on the AU land agenda and the NELGA objectives
- Initiate a dialogue for a common vision on curricula development, continuous training programs and scientific research programs.

Activities

The key activities of the NELGA Node and partner institution in Northern Africa include:
- Development of a common strategy for scientific (land-related) research in Northern Africa
- Organization of continuous training program
- Establishment of a master degree in land governance
- Development of a Knowledge Data Base (KDB) Development of Sustainability and Control Quality (SCQ – regarding the long term sustainability of the network, knowledge dissemination and monitoring of NELGA-related activities)