NELGA Research

Background

To strengthen human and institutional capacities for the implementation of the AU agenda on land, the African Land Policy Centre (ALPC), formerly 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.

NELGA research component

The World Bank leads NELGA’s accompanying research component. It aims at promoting demand-driven research on land governance and strengthening monitoring and evaluation of land policy processes in Africa.

NELGA research activities create a link between applied research on land governance and policy processes and generate evidence based knowledge on land governance to inform policy makers.

Functions of NELGA research

Generate high-quality research products and translate analytical findings into operational engagement and decision-making processes.

Mainstream land governance issues in land-related education to enhance training opportunities and curricula on land governance.

Strengthen analytical capabilities of existing African research institutions.

Expand data availability on land governance and facilitate access, such as through data repositories.

Research activities

To date the World Bank and NELGA partner institutions have successfully implemented the following projects:

- Impact evaluations of innovative land related projects to inform subsequent roll-out;
- Development and test of new methodology and technologies (e.g. satellite imagery) for analysing land issues;
- Implementation of Land Governance Assessment Framework in eight countries and kick start of follow up activities;
- Development of training, Master and PhD courses in the area of land governance;
- Support of Bachelor, Master and PhD students in pursuing land related research through the NELGA scholarship programme;
- Co-organising national, regional and international events in land governance (workshops, conferences, multi-stakeholder dialogues, etc.).
LGAF continuation

The Land Governance Assessment Framework (LGAF) was designed by the World Bank (2009) to support countries in assessing their land governance policies and practices, by relying on expert workshops on various dimensions of land governance.

In 2017, GIZ in cooperation with NELGA partner institutions and World Bank started to support LGAF continuation processes in Ethiopia and Rwanda with the aim to translate LGAF recommendations into policy actions.

Impact evaluation on the Mailo-land research project in Uganda

The Research Department of the World Bank in cooperation with the Ugandan Bureau of Statistics is collecting the baseline data for the impact evaluation on the Mailo-land research project.

The research is aimed to assess the impacts of strengthening the security of Mailo tenants on their land with a focus on investments, land conservation measures, agricultural productivity and income diversification.

PhD course on land economics in the University of Cape Town (UCT)

In partnership with the African Research Economic Consortium (AERC), the World Bank and GIZ, UCT has developed a five weeks PhD course, which will be launched in January 2018. This course will equip 20 PhD students with knowledge on key land related issues and key tools for analysis.