



Network of Excellence
on Land Governance in Africa

NELGA Good Practices Scholarship Programme

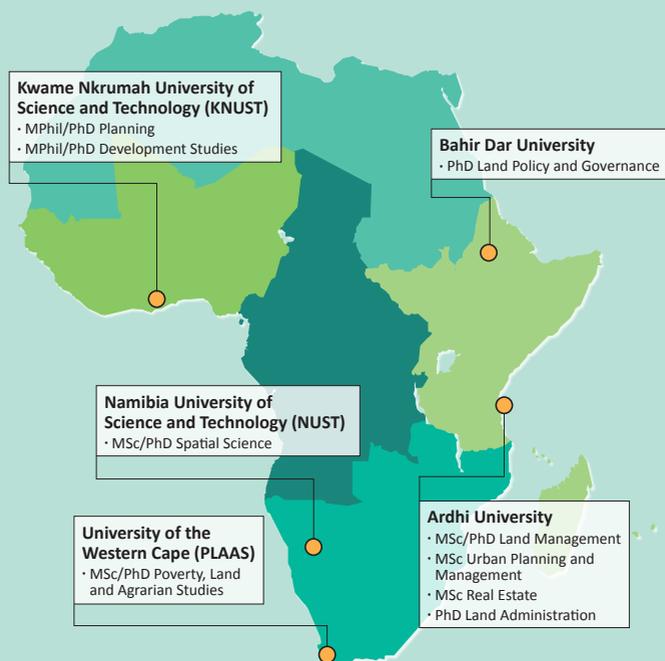
NELGA offers a comprehensive **Master and PhD scholarship programme** available for young academics and professionals from all African Union member states to enhance land-related capacities in higher education. In cooperation with the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), NELGA currently supports more than 40 scholars across Africa.

The NELGA Scholarship Programme

The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) supports NELGA through a comprehensive scholarship programme. The NELGA scholarship programme aims to support Master and PhD studies in land-related studies across Africa. In addition DAAD also funds short-term activities through a flexible measures programme, including staff exchanges, research activities, field studies, land-related events and workshops, as well as short-term trainings for mid-career professional and researchers.

Master and PhD scholarships

The scholarships for Master and PhD programmes aim to strengthen human and institutional capacities for land governance. Application is open for nationals or permanent residents of any African country. To date, five universities offer a wide variety of Master and PhD Programmes with regard to land policy:



Personal benefits of the scholarship holders

“Thanks to DAAD scholarship programme, now I have become a better researcher in my field of specialisation”.

Mr. Martie Mushaukwa

The scholarship holders at NUST university in Namibia identified three major benefits which they have been afforded through the DAAD scholarship programme:

- 1. FINANCIAL BENEFITS:** Most of the scholars cannot afford to pay the tuition fees of their respective studies. Therefore, the scholarship has removed the financial barrier towards the completion of their respective studies.
- 2. EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE:** Due to the absence of financial concerns, students can concentrate on their studies to achieve better grades. In addition, the risk of dropping out has been eliminated.
- 3. CAREER ADVANCEMENT:** The scholarship will help the holders to achieve their dreams of becoming credible researchers, experts and professionals in the land sector.

Training tomorrow’s decision-makers

So far NELGA has awarded more than **40 scholarships** to Master and PhD students from 10 different countries; 16 of them were granted to women.

“This scholarship programme is a great opportunity for my career advancement and it is my hope that my research will contribute positively to society”.

Ms. Celina Awala

The programme helps to improve the **visibility of women and youth** in land related matters. It has opened doors for many African students and professionals to excel in their respective careers.

By providing opportunities for students to get the required scientific and practical experience the NELGA scholarship programme helps educating tomorrow’s decision-makers who will contribute to good land governance in their respective countries.

Students are supported to engage in land governance trainings and strengthen land-related research across Africa.

By doing in-depth research on diverse topics ranging from communal land rights and large-scale land-based investments, over water use conflicts and urban-rural land use, to property evaluation and sustainable land administration, NELGA scholars identify and develop solutions to common land governance issues affecting the region and the continent as a whole.

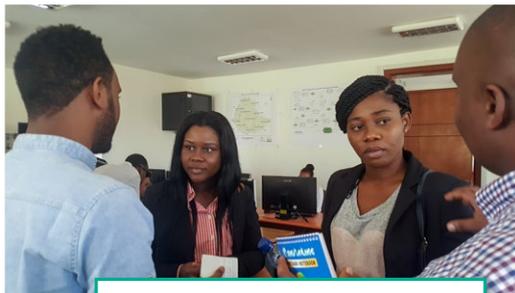
Networking among scholarship holders

NELGA Scholarship Holders' Meeting

From 12 to 14 November 2017, NELGA hosted its first scholarship holders' meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. For three days, **35 scholarship holders from eight African countries took part in the event.**

Different thematic and methodological focuses were presented including **lectures by top-class scientists**, such as Prof. Dr. Jaap Zevenbergen from University of Twente, who discussed current dynamics in responsible land administration with the students.

As part of the meeting the young NELGA scholars visited the Information Network Security Agency (INSA), where they gained hands-on **experience in geospatial technologies and aerial surveying** as well as **national cadaster design**. Presentations of the PhD research projects offered additional opportunities for in-depth discussions about current issues and possible solutions to prevailing challenges in the land policy sector.



"Meeting professors of whom I had only read publications was awesome".

NELGA scholarship holder

The event provided the students with an excellent **opportunity for creating a strong and lively network** for further cooperation. To keep in touch and continue exchanging ideas and experiences beyond the end of the scholarship programme, they agreed to establish a NELGA alumni network.

Having been perceived as an excellent event, the meeting will be repeated in 2019, then welcoming even more scholarship holders from NELGA partner universities.

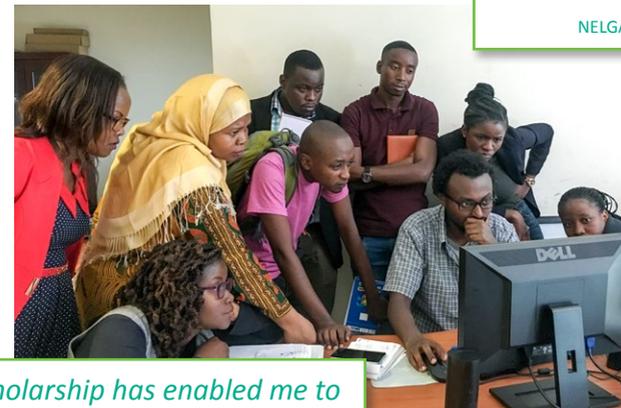
NELGA Scholars at the Conference on Land Policy in Africa (CLPA)

Through the scholarship programme NELGA students had the chance to participate in the four-day "Conference on Land Policy in Africa", hosted by the African Land Policy Centre (ALPC) in November 2017. The participation in the panels, round table and discussion events enabled the scholarship holders not only to get in touch with **internationally recognized scientists**, but also to establish contacts with **civil society organizations and government representatives**. This opportunity for exchange was actively used by the students and they were well represented in the discussion sessions.

Three scholarship holders also qualified within the conference's competitive call for papers and were given the opportunity to present their paper in the context of thematically focused sessions.

"Meeting my fellow NELGA students was the best. We really shared a lot not only on our areas of research but also on our social backgrounds".

NELGA scholarship holder



"The scholarship has enabled me to attend the 2017 Conference on Land Policy in Africa. In addition I was also encouraged to write a conference paper which was accepted for presentation at the conference".

Mr. Mtulisi Moyo

Meet the NELGA scholars – Mireille

PROFILE

NAME: Mireille Biraro

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Rwanda

UNIVERSITY:
Bahir Dar University, Ethiopia

STUDY COURSE:
Land Policy and Governance

DEGREE: PhD

RESEARCH TOPIC:
Sustainability of Land Administration System after a massive land registration using fit for purpose approach: Case Study of land administration system in Rwanda



Doctorate degree on Land Policy and Governance at Bahir Dar University

Bahir Dar University, where Mireille is studying, is the first university in Ethiopia to establish a doctorate degree in land policy and governance – NELGA greatly facilitated the establishment of the programme. In 2016 a revision of the curricula was undertaken and recommendations for the adjustment of the program in line with international standards and based on NELGA guidelines, were developed in cooperation with the Technical University of Munich.

Land-related challenges in Rwanda

As one of the most densely populated countries in the world, Rwanda has a lot to do in terms of land governance. Rwanda's system was established in 2013. Since, it has tried to keep up with rapid urbanization, high population growth and recent natural disasters, which have led to changes in the land register, thus the need for efficient updating procedures.

“I've always been interested in land governance, especially understanding how institutions run a database. Studying in the Netherlands for a Master's degree enabled me to learn how land administration systems are organised in other countries. During the course, I shared ideas and discussed theories with people from different countries. We established a common challenge: the process of updating and maintaining land registries.

Knowing this, I wanted to return to my home country, Rwanda, to teach and take my studies further to investigate solutions and ways of updating established registries in a simpler way. At this point I came across the NELGA Scholarship, which is dedicated to supporting research in the field of land governance.

The Scholarship opened the door to my PhD at Bahir Dar University and has enabled me to establish a network across the continent. In the future, I hope my research will contribute to resolving some of the challenges in land governance and progress systems in Rwanda, and more broadly across the continent.”

Meet the NELGA scholars – Moyo

PROFILE

NAME: Moyo Mtulisi

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Zimbabwe

UNIVERSITY:
Namibia University of Science and
Technology (NUST)

STUDY COURSE: Spatial Science

DEGREE: PhD

RESEARCH TOPIC:
A comparative analyses of agro-pastoral and wildlife-based
land use in Zimbabwe's semi-arid region



NUST – Center of Excellence in Southern Africa

The Department of Land and Property Sciences (DLPS) at 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. Being known for strong research-policy linkages NUST provides a great opportunity to expand the knowledge and conduct a research for proactive students like Moyo.

Land-related challenges in Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe faces a number of challenges around land administration and development. Primarily, the country lacks a robust system and policies to sort and manage information. These long-term issues have contributed to poverty and inequality in Zimbabwe, and across Southern Africa.

“ I had 10 years of experience working for the government of Zimbabwe as a Land use Planner in the Ministry of Lands Agriculture and Rural Development before I enrolled for a Master programme majoring in land administration and management at the University of the Witwatersrand in South Africa.

It's thanks to the scholarship provided by NELGA that I was able to pursue a Doctor of Philosophy programme. My hope is that skills acquired and the research I contribute to can positively shape national and regional land governance policy. My motivation to undertake this research with the internationally recognized NUST university is to contribute to the literature on land reform and sustainable development.

In the context of my PhD studies I'm currently analysing animal and crop farming in Beitbridge, Zimbabwe's poorest district. I'm looking into land-use systems that help to redress poverty and inequality and improve food security. For example, with secure rights and access to land, rural farmers can grow crops, graze livestock, and increase household food production.

Throughout Africa, democratic land governance systems are fundamental for both protecting human rights and creating a stable economic environment for investment, which in turn helps to alleviate poverty and improve food security.

We must act now, and quickly to implement land reforms that help to protect our natural resource and provide a sustainable future for generations to come. ”

Meet the NELGA scholars – Augustin

PROFILE

NAME: Augustin Nestor Yamuno
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN:
Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)
UNIVERSITY:
Ardhi University, Tanzania
STUDY COURSE:
Urban Planning and Management
DEGREE: Master
RESEARCH TOPIC: Resilient city planning



Augustin after presenting a Town Planning layout to Local Community

Ardhi University: Striving for excellence

Ardhi University is one of the leading training and research institutions in the Sub Saharan Africa region in the area of land governance. It is a champion in Eastern Africa and aims at becoming a global centre of excellence. The major contributions of the university to the NELGA and the opportunity given to students such as Augustin illustrate this ambition.

“I am very proud of being a NELGA scholar and part of the NELGA network. Thanks to the NELGA scholarship, I feel like a fish in water. And I achieve success via NELGA”!

“ A couple of year ago I started my own land-related company, focusing particularly on urban planning activities targeting low income households.

Yet, I faced several professional challenges and realized that pursuing a master degree would help me deepening my knowledge on land-related professions. Fortunately, thanks to NELGA, I was awarded a scholarship to pursue a master program in Urban Planning and Management at Ardhi University, Tanzania.

Thanks to NELGA, I am now involved in a Wold Bank project on Urban resilience Project for the Msimbazi valley in Dar es Salaam. It will serve as the fieldwork of my master thesis on resilient cities.

Not only NELGA gave me this scholarship opportunity, but it also opened me the door to a wide network. My wish is to provide land planning services in DRC – my home country, in Tanzania - where I study, and many other African countries. Thanks to NELGA, I am now a step closer toward achieving my goal.

In the future, I wish I could link my company with NELGA, to cooperate with others on offering land planning services to the community. ”

NELGA

The **Network of Excellence on 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. It strengthens capacities and knowledge exchange at more than 50 partner institutions across Africa.

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