

Strengthening Advisory Capacities for Land Governance in Africa (SLGA)



Smallholder farmer in Namibia presents legal land title.

Context

Weak land governance and insecure land rights are still major development challenges for Africa.

In 2006, the African Union (AU) established the Land Policy Initiative (LPI), thereby placing emphasis on the urgency of improving land policies in a regional context. LPI supports global initiatives such as the „Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems (RAI)“ and the „Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure (VGGT)“ of the UN Committee on World Food Security.

Although a growing number of countries express

political will to realize these initiatives, their implementation at country level remains at an early stage. Many countries lack the human and institutional capacities required to implement sustainable land policies.

One of the key reasons for the lack of technical capacity is the insufficient quality of academic programs at African universities and other institutions of higher learning. In Addition most countries lack capacity for applied research, monitoring and evaluation and data to support effective implementation of land policy.

Action Areas

- **Establish training and education capacities:** Universities in several countries are provided with advice on how to re-develop and improve education programs and how to better adjust them to the demand.
- **Establish an African Network of Excellence on Land Governance (NELGA):** LPI will be supported with organizational and technical advice in the process of setting up NELGA, a network of selected African universities and research institutes.
- **Setup practice-oriented research:** A research accompanying program will be setup via the World Bank which will supply scientific insight for knowledge exchange, policy advice as well as education and postgraduate training.

- **Strengthen AU institutions to implement the AU agenda on land:** Strengthening of individual and institutional capacities of the mandated AU-institutions (AU-Commission, LPI, NEPAD, and Regional Economic Communities) as well as mandate definition and task sharing between the institutions.

Our objective

African institutions and professionals implement improved land policies, which strengthen the rights of marginalized groups such as smallholder farmers, pastoralists and women.



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Region

Member states of the African Union

Duration

December 2014 until November 2021

Budget

22, 5 Million Euros

Implementing Partners

LPI, World Bank, NEPAD, RECs, African and European universities, DAAD

Lead Executing Agency

Commission of the African Union

Target Group

Marginalised groups, such as small farmers, women and ethnic minorities, who suffer as a result of having inadequate access to land or no land rights at all.



The program in the field

Bahir Dar University is the first university in Ethiopia that has a doctorate degree on the topic of land policy on offer. For many years, the university has been a centre of excellence for the education of professionals in land management and land administration.

Through education and supervision of PhD candidates the university greatly contributes to research on land policy in Ethiopia as well as to capacity building for sustainable land management and efficient land administration.

The program supports the establishment of this degree course. 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 (TUM) in 2016. Furthermore, the TUM will support the implementation of the PhD program from now on, i.e. through guest lectures and by supervising PhD theses. Moreover, scholarships for the new education program in Bahir Dar are being granted via DAAD, which is open for applications for postgraduates from all over Africa. Hereby young Africans, as well as cooperation and knowledge sharing between African universities are promoted.



Participatory mapping of land parcels in Namibia

What we have achieved

- Implementation of a comprehensive analysis of existing curricula for land policy of African universities.
- Development of guidelines for curricula on land governance in Africa for masters and Ph.D. programs to be offered by NELGA. Awarding of the first 18 scholarships for students at universities in Ethiopia, Tanzania and Namibia.
- Realization of several measures in the context of accompanied research, i.e. data collection, research of innovative approaches to increase tenure security as well as the implementation of the so called *Land Governance Assessment Frameworks* in various African countries.

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