

IAV Hassan II – NELGA Node in North Africa

Background

To strengthen human and institutional capacities for the implementation of the African Union’s agenda on land the African Land Policy Centre (ALPC), has established a **Network of Excellence on Land Governance in Africa (NELGA)** in cooperation with Germany 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 70 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.

North Africa NELGA Node — IAV Hassan II

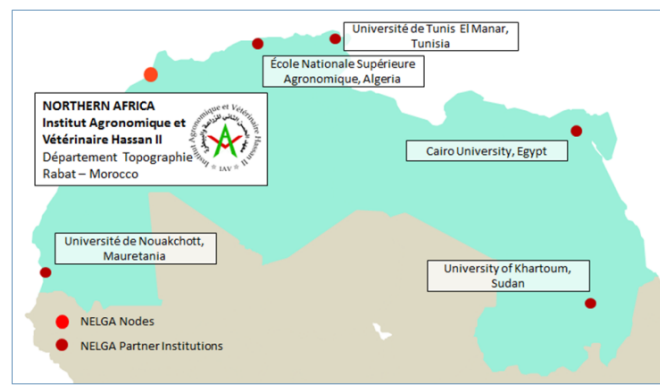
The **Institut Agronomique et Vétérinaire Hassan II (IAV)**, based in Rabat, Morocco, is one of the **leading training and research institutions** in the domain of land governance in North Africa. Within the AIV, the School of Geomatics Sciences and Surveying Engineering (SGIT) is continuously strengthening 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 Northern 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 IAV Hassan II.

North Africa NELGA Launch, January 29-30, 2018

The North African partners organized during a regional workshop under the topic “**Training and research for Land Governance**” that enabled:

- The **institutionalization of the NELGA North Africa node**



- 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 programmes and scientific research programmes.

Activities

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

- **Development** of a **common strategy** for training, continuous training, and scientific research
- **Setting up** a pool of experts in **land governance**
- Establishing an **educational programme** in land governance
- Promoting and sharing **Knowledge** and **research** findings through dissemination and publication
- Participating in **continental and international meetings** and activities in relationship with land governance
- Organizing events, seminars, and webinars to reinforce communication within the network



Group photo of workshop participants

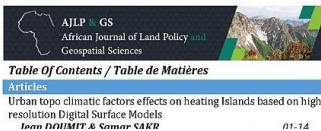
Knowledge sharing and dissemination

A collaborative cooperation among SLGA Programme, the African Land Policy Center (ALPC) and IAV Hassan II leads to publishing the African Journal on Land Policy and Geospatial Sciences as a communication tool to encourage innovation, foster knowledge, disseminate scientific findings on land governance. The ultimate goal is to advance scientific research in land policy and geospatial sciences in Africa. Since May 2018, the Journal has published three volumes, eleven issues encompassing 125 papers. The first issue of the fourth volume is expected in January 30th, 2021. This year, a new publishing strategy has been adopted.

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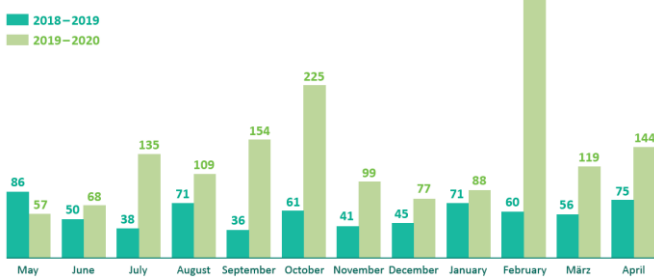
African Journal on Land Policy and Geospatial Sciences



<https://revues.imist.ma/index.php/AJLP-GS/index>

A large community of professors, researchers, students, and professionals are taking benefits of the journal publications. The Editorial staff has followed up on the evolution the downloads made during the period 2018-2020. The targeted readers by the Journal over the world are shown below.

Number of paper downloads during 2018–2019 / 2019–2020



- Total of Downloads: 1617
- Africa: 1131 - Europe: 217 - Asia : 197 - America: 69 - Australia: 3
- Africa: 70% - Europe: 13% - Asia : 12% - America: 4% - Australia:0,2%

Master on Geospatial Sciences and Land Governance

The hub of North Africa has accredited a Master's degree programme on the Geospatial Sciences and Land Governance. The Master has the goal to developing the skills of understanding the technical and legal aspects necessary in the field of land governance. It also aims to strengthen advisory capacities of decision-makers in a team learning environment. Since 2018, three intakes have been enrolled in this programme.



Study tour in Germany – September 9-20, 2018

A study tour took place in Germany during which NELGA delegates visited institutions involved in different areas of land policy. It provided extended opportunities to meet both scientists and practitioners with broad experience in land governance on local and national levels in Germany. The participants benefit from a one-day scientific workshop on land governance hosted by the Technical University of Munich.



Team of the study tour in Germany

Attending steering and expert group meetings

The meeting aims to share and discuss issues on NELGA Governance, roles and responsibilities of NELGA partners, NELGA curricula development, and short-term training on Land Governance. NELGA North Africa Hub is attending continuously the organized expert group meetings and steering meetings to present its achievements and contribute in developing the NELGA strategic plan in Africa.



ALPC, NELGA&GIZ/SLGA Steering Meeting, May 29-31st, 2018.

Scoping study on land tenure systems in North Africa

The NELGA NA Node organized the workshop of “Results Restitution and NELGA Strategic Plan in North Africa” from 28 to 30 October 2019. During the workshop sessions, the results of studies conducted in Tunisia, Mauritania, Egypt, Sudan and Morocco were presented. Presentations have shed light on the state of the art of land tenure systems in North Africa. The needs in terms of training, continuing education and research in the field of land governance were discussed and analyzed.



The workshop brought together NELGA partners and national, regional and international professionals and experts. It was an opportunity to outline all the main activities carried out since the implementation of NELGA NA in January 2018.

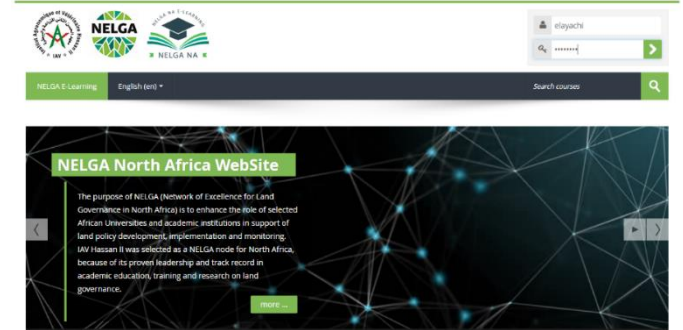
Conference on Land Policy in Africa, Abidjan – Ivory Cost

The third edition of the Conference on Land Policy in Africa was organized by the African Land Policy Centre (ALPC) in Abidjan in 25-29 November 2019. The aim of the Conference was to deepen land policy capacity in Africa through better access to knowledge and information on the implementation of land policies. The Conference subject was "Winning the Fight Against Corruption in the Land Sector: A Sustainable Path to Africa's Transformation".

NELGA NA Coordinator, SLGA NA Technical Advisor and different regional and continental NELGA partners attended the event.

NELGA NA E-learning tool

NELGA North Africa Node has developed its own platform called NELGA e-learning. Despite the COVID19 outbreak, NELGA NA faces these challenging circumstances by providing online courses for Master’s degree students on Land Governance, Engineering Program on Land Surveying, and PhD Students on Scientific writing.



Pool of Experts

The pool of experts has the aim to set up a team of experts in the domain of land governance and related issues. The representatives of NELGA country members will propose a list of experts and the topic of their interest. The proposed topics will serve as reference frame for developing regional and diversified courses. Each topic will be considered as a Continuous Professional Development course (CPD).

Creating the Research Centre on Land Governance

The purpose of creating Research Centre as part of NELGA North Africa is to aid developing the research agenda. As a project NELGA emerged from the strategic framework set out by the African Union in 2006, alongside the African Commission and the African Development Bank in terms of the African Land Policy Initiative. In 2009 the African Unions’ framework and guidelines (particularly clauses 22-26) set benchmarks in debates over land policy which remain relevant especially in relation to financial and technical resources provided on either a bi- or multi-lateral basis.

A part of moving forward with this agenda is enhancing cross-border collaboration, which could possibly be achieved through a mobility programme. Research Centre would seek to integrate rather than replicate existing skills and expertise, providing a focal point for research activities and collaboration across the region. Several aspects to consider: first, reinforcing multi- and inter-disciplinary approaches; second, the need to sign Memorandums of Understanding (MoU); third, setting up a research council to represent opinions of different NELGA North African partners; and fourth, working towards accreditation of the research agenda and programme.

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SLGA is responsible for the content of this publication