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Factors Contributing to Gender Inequality in Land Access and Land Tenure Security in Sub-Saharan Africa A Literature Review

Marisa BALAS, Mozambique

Christiaan LEMMEN, The Netherlands

Rosana ALBUQUERQUE, Portugal

Isabel CASIMIRO, Mozambique

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Land is a crucial asset for society

In developing countries, although women account for 60-80% of food production, they rarely own the land on which they work.

Globally, less than 15% of the land belongs to women.



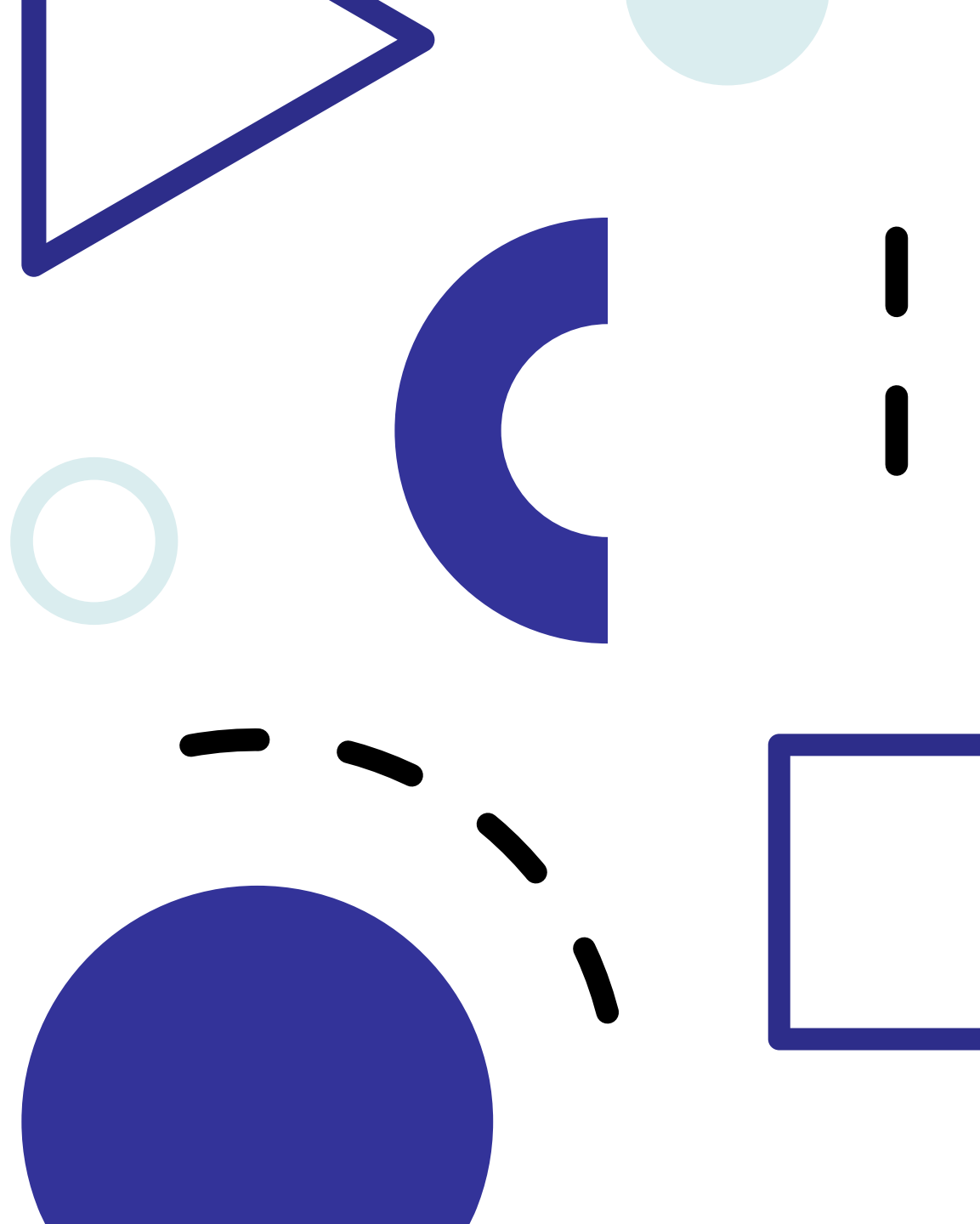
At the current pace of progress, it will take 200 years, or 9 generations, to achieve equal rights over land and natural resources and women's full participation in decision-making processes (SIGI 2019 Report)

The fact that women cannot have access to land and have their property rights denied by traditions and power relations is a **serious threat to Sustainable Development**



International agenda has increased efforts to address this issue

- 2030 agenda for sustainable development
- Voluntary Guidelines for the Responsible Governance of Land, Fisheries and Forestry Resources (VGGT), in the context of National Food Security
- Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)
- African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (the "Maputo Protocol")
- African Union 2063 Agenda time



**Several factors
contribute to gender
inequality in land
access and land
tenure security**

Legal framework

Organizational

Socio-Cultural

**Economic and
Educational**



Legal framework

- Legal pluralism: Statutory Law, Religious law, Social Law, Customary law
- Legal discrimination
- Gaps in legislation

Organizational

- Weak Institutions
- Inaccessible Institutions
- Corruption
- Limited formalization of rights
- Lack of reliable land registry

Socio-Cultural

- Patriarchy
- Matrilineal and patrilineal inheritance
- Polygamy, informal marriages
- Health stigmatization
- Women can hurt other women

Economic and Educational

- Financial instability
- Lack of access to finance, information, knowledge and technology
- Lack of participation
- Lack of legal literacy



Source: Adapted from ILC, 2019

Marisa BALAS
PhD candidate
Universidade Aberta
Maputo
MOZAMBIQUE
Email: marisa.balas@gmail.com



Christiaan LEMMEN
Professor
University of Twente
Faculty of GeoInformation Science and Earth
Observation/ITC
THE NETHERLANDS
Email: c.h.j.lemmen@utwente.nl
Web site: <https://people.utwente.nl/c.h.j.lemmen>



Rosana ALBUQUERQUE
Professor
Department of Social Sciences and Management
Universidade Aberta
Lisbon
PORTUGAL
Email: Rosana.Albuquerque@uab.pt
Web site: <https://portal.uab.pt/>



Isabel maria CASIMIRO
Professor
Centre of African Studies
Eduardo Mondlane University
Maputo
MOZAMBIQUE
Email: isabelmaria.casimiro@gmail.com

