

Improving Gender and Women's Access to Land by increasing land availability through land Conservation and land Restoration

Iyenemi Ibimina Kakulu (Nigeria)

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SUMMARY

The economic forces of demand and supply often play a critical role in price determination of urban and rural lands. This can have an impact on land availability that is within the reach of different income groups. Where land availability is limited in supply, then market forces kick in and the prices generally take an upward trend making it more accessible to higher income earners. In these circumstances, the chances that the urban and rural poor (particularly women and youth), can gain access to land, is slim as they typically do not have the economic resources to out-bid those within higher income brackets. In the face of the triple planetary crises and rapidly approaching milestones of the Sustainable Development Goals, specifically Goals 1, 2, 5, 11 and 15, uncontrolled land degradation from several sources including extreme weather events, is contributing to a further reduction in the volume and quality of available lands. This reduced land availability for access by women and youth, coupled with poverty, marginalization and gender inequality is further widening the gap in terms of land access and ownership, particularly by women. The G20 Global Initiative on Reducing Land Degradation and Enhancing Conservation of Terrestrial Habitats was launched by G20 Leaders in 2020 with the objective of preventing, halting, and reversing land degradation with the ambition to reduce degraded land by 50 percent by 2040. The Global Land Initiative (GLI) believes that by promoting policies or practices that halt land degradation or promote land conservation, it can lead to an increased land availability for equitable gender distribution. In addition, by promoting the growth of active land restoration industries, the socio-economic benefits to women and youth in terms of enhanced livelihoods, can address poverty (SDG 1), end hunger (SDG.2), narrow the gaps in land access (SDG 5), promote sustainable cities and communities (SDG 11) and ultimately improve life on land (SDG 15). This paper makes a case for land restoration and habitat conservation as an economic empowerment opportunity that can improve women's access to land.

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