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A photograph of three farmers walking away from the camera across a flooded rice field. They are wearing wide-brimmed straw hats and long-sleeved shirts. The field is filled with young rice plants in rows. In the background, there are trees and a clear sky.

# Regulatory Reform as a Path to Gender-Equitable and Participatory Community Decision-making on Land Investments

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# Project Countries & Partners

## Mozambique



**CENTRO TERRA VIVA**  
Estudos e Advocacia Ambiental

## Tanzania



**Tanzania Women Lawyers Association**

## Philippines



**ATENEO DE MANILA UNIVERSITY**

**SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT**





**Project Goal** | Strengthen women's participation in community decision-making related to large-scale land acquisitions and investments in community lands.

**Approach** | Regulatory reforms that build on or implement national laws mandating community participation and gender equality.



## LEGAL FRAMEWORK

**Mozambique:** 1997 Land Law; 1998 Land Law Regulations; Ministerial Regulations 158/2011

**Tanzania:** 1999 Land Act; 1999 Village Land Act

**Philippines:** 1997 Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act; Regulations on Free, Prior and Informed Consent




# Procedures for Consultation

Mozambique – Two community consultation meetings. 1<sup>st</sup> one informational, 2<sup>nd</sup> for decision-making.

Tanzania – Village council considers the request, convenes the village assembly to make final decision.

Philippines – Free, prior, and informed consent requires two community meetings or assemblies, and a consensus-building period.

# Gender Barriers

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- Gender-neutral language
  - Promoting customary law in community decision-making without qualification
  - Lack mechanisms to ensure that women's inclusion in decision-making bodies (through electoral quotas) translate into actual participation

# REFORMS

Gender-neutral language

- Specify women as a stakeholder; Focus group meetings for women

Unqualified upholding of customary law

- Void customary law that discriminate against women

Lack of mechanisms

- Quorum and voting requirements (model by-laws)





## Specific Reforms

**Mozambique:** Revise  
Community Consultation  
Regulations

**Tanzania:** Prepare Model  
By-laws and National-level  
Guidelines

**Philippines:** Revise FPIC  
Regulations



# Project Phases

## Research

Understand the formal and informal process of land acquisitions - review of statutory and regulatory frameworks, review of literature, and case studies conducted in each country.

Outcome: Evidence-based recommendations for reform



## Outreach & Advocacy

Press for regulatory reform and engage key stakeholders: National and local governments, civil society & community-based organizations, companies & investors, and women & men in local communities.

Outcome: Reforms enacted, stakeholder sensitization and buy-in



**Thank you!**