

Women's Access to Land

Agneta ERICSSON, Sweden

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ABSTRACT

In Brighton, in 1998, Commission 7 of the FIG formally established a Working Group on Access to Land. Within this working group, a special Task Force Group studied and promoted Women's Access to Land, with emphasis on women's situation in developing countries.

Land surveyors play an important role in the management of land, especially in supporting the allocation and transfer of rights to land. Their activities include land adjudication, establishing cadastral and land registration system, as well as land use planning. They can also be engaged in elaborating and amending land laws and regulations etc. When performing these assignments, land surveyors can play a crucial role in protecting women's rights and to ensure that women can actively participate in the different processes.

The objectives of the Task Force Group have been to advise land surveyors and make recommendations on how they can contribute in improving women's situation regarding access to land and security of tenure. Another objective of the Working Group has been to elaborate FIG guidelines on Women's Access to Land and Security of Tenure.

The background report including guidelines "Women's Access to Land- FIG Guidelines, Principles for Equitable Gender Inclusion in Land Administration: Background Report and Guidelines" is elaborated by Katalin Komjathy and Susan E. Nichols. The report and guidelines were adopted by FIG in May 2001, Korea and is published in FIG Publication No 24. The whole report and guidelines are also presented on FIG's website; <http://www.fig.net/figtree/pub/figpub/pub24/figpub24.htm>. The guidelines are arranged around four major objectives:

- 1) Establishing land administration procedures that accommodate all segments of the population
- 2) Removing barriers women face while they seek information regarding their rights and responsibilities associated with land and housing
- 3) Broadening practitioners' understanding and appreciation of the circumstances that limit women's participation in land related matters, and the importance of finding alternative means to include women in those decisions; and
- 4) Working with the local customary community.

The current paper will present the achievements of the Task Force Group and the FIG Guidelines on Women's Access to Land.

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CONTACT

Agneta Ericsson
Lantmäteriet (National Land Survey, Sweden)
Box 1342
SE-801 38 Gävle
SWEDEN
Tel. +46 26 171 646
Fax + 46 26 171 642
E-mail: agneta.ericsson@lm.se
Web site: www.lantmateriet.se

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