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**Conference of the Parties  
Committee on Science and Technology**

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Item 2 (a) of the provisional agenda

**Items resulting from the work programme of the Science-Policy Interface for the triennium 2022–2024**

**Evidence on sustainable land use systems and their potential to address desertification/land degradation and drought**

**Policy-oriented recommendations resulting from evidence on sustainable land use systems and their potential to address desertification/land degradation and drought, under objective 1 of the Science-Policy Interface work programme for the triennium 2022–2024**

**Report by the Executive Secretary**

*Summary*

By its decision 18/COP.15, the Conference of the Parties (COP) requested the Science-Policy Interface (SPI), as objective 1 of its work programme for 2022–2024, to provide science-based evidence on sustainable land use systems (SLUS) and their potential to address desertification/land degradation and drought while also contributing to the achievement of multiple United Nations goals and targets, taking into account environmental, economic and sociocultural conditions.

In response to this request, the SPI conducted a scientific assessment and produced a technical report providing science-based evidence and practical guidance on developing SLUS. The guidance is applicable to the local context and supports users in navigating potential barriers and seeking opportunities for synergies with other sustainable development objectives. Developing SLUS requires a social-ecological systems-based approach and inclusive and participatory governance to foster the equitable, resilient and sustainable use of land across local, sub-regional and national scales.

This document presents the activities undertaken by the SPI on objective 1 as well as a summary of the key findings emerging from the technical report. The Committee on Science and Technology may wish to consider these findings for the development, as appropriate, of recommendations to the COP.



## Contents

	<i>Paragraphs</i>	<i>Page</i>
I. Background .....	1–4	3
II. Evidence base and rationale .....	5–44	3
A. What are sustainable land use systems?.....	11–17	4
B. Key objectives and elements.....	18–22	5
C. Implementation .....	23–25	5
D. Scaling sustainable land use systems .....	26–29	8
E. Achieving land degradation neutrality and the Sustainable Development Goals	30–35	8
F. Enabling factors and challenges to overcome.....	36–44	9
III. Conclusions and recommendations .....	45–51	10
A. Conclusion 1 on sustainable land use systems and achieving land degradation neutrality .....	46	10
B. Conclusion 2 on sustainable land use systems for maintaining land degradation neutrality .....	47	11
C. Conclusion 3 on sustainable land use systems and accelerating the Sustainable Development Goals .....	48	11
D. Conclusion 4 on tailoring sustainable land use systems to each landscape or region.....	49	11
E. Conclusion 5 on the enabling environment for sustainable land use systems.	50–51	11
Annex		
Objectives and elements of sustainable land use systems .....		12

## I. Background

1. By its decision 18/COP.15, the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) adopted the Science-Policy Interface (SPI) work programme for the triennium 2022–2024. Under objective 1 of its work programme for 2022–2024, the SPI was requested to provide science-based evidence on sustainable land use systems (SLUS) and their potential to address desertification/land degradation and drought while also contributing to the achievement of multiple United Nations goals and targets, taking into account environmental, economic and sociocultural conditions.
2. In response to this request, and following its mandate, as defined in decision 23/COP.11 and decision 19/COP.12, the SPI conducted a thematic assessment in collaboration with commissioned experts<sup>1</sup> working under the supervision of the SPI. Based on this assessment, the SPI prepared a technical report entitled “Sustainable Land Use Systems – the path forward to collectively achieve Land Degradation Neutrality”.
3. The technical report was prepared in accordance with the rules and procedures established by the COP, by which any scientific output prepared under the supervision of the SPI should undergo an international, independent review process.<sup>2</sup>
4. The final draft of the technical report and an associated science-policy brief are in press at the time of this publication and will be made available to the public online in December 2024. The main scientific findings and conclusions emerging from this technical report are summarized in this document.

## II. Evidence base and rationale

5. Land is a fundamental resource for life at the interface of nature, human population, economy, and knowledge systems. Land is highly diverse with respect to its physical and biological attributes, including climate, biomes, soils and topography. Land has fundamental but complex links to ecosystem function, biodiversity conservation, food and water security, peace-building and human well-being.
6. However, globally, and particularly in the drylands, land degradation is widespread, causing food and water insecurity, migration and social conflict, among other challenges. Complex interactions between social, economic and environmental factors drive land degradation. Measures to address land degradation will only be successful when land is understood as a social-ecological system, and policies and interventions are devised at landscape scale.
7. Due to the unique position of land at the intersection of human and ecosystem well-being, applying a systems approach to land management enables multiple environmental, social and economic benefits. Through the development of SLUS, land can be the entry point to creating transformative sustainable solutions that reverse land degradation, mitigate climate change, support climate change adaptation, halt biodiversity loss and build peace.
8. The SPI objective 1 technical report presents science-based evidence on SLUS and their potential to address land degradation while also contributing to the achievement of multiple United Nations goals and targets, taking into account environmental, economic and

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<sup>1</sup> With support from the secretariat to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the Science-Policy Interface (SPI) drafted concept notes, terms of reference and evaluation criteria for the selection of these subject matter experts. Following a public competitive tender, two experts were commissioned for the task of drafting these domain-specific background reports under the guidance of the SPI.

<sup>2</sup> Drafts of the technical report were initially reviewed and refined by the Science-Policy Interface (SPI)-dedicated working group. After addressing their comments, the next draft of the technical report underwent an independent scientific review which included domain-knowledge experts from each region, selected by the co-chairs of the SPI (483 review comments received). These comments were considered when shaping the final draft of the report, which was submitted to Parties for comments. The co-lead authors of the technical report ensured that all peer review comments received appropriate consideration.

sociocultural conditions. It aims to provide guidance to support countries in employing SLUS to achieve land degradation neutrality (LDN) targets, thereby accelerating the achievement of other Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

9. The report provides practical guidance on devising SLUS that are applicable to the local context and supporting users in navigating potential barriers and seeking opportunities for synergies with other sustainable development objectives. It concludes with recommendations to policymakers on measures to support development and the implementation of SLUS.

10. The technical report was informed by an extensive review and assessment of the literature, case study analysis, a stakeholder survey, interviews with key respondents and an analysis of national reports submitted to the UNCCD.

## **A. What are sustainable land use systems?**

11. A SLUS is a dynamic mosaic of integrated land uses within a landscape that balances the many, sometimes competing, demands on land to support environmental sustainability, social justice and economic viability, particularly for those who live within the landscape or depend on it for their livelihoods. Developing SLUS requires a social-ecological systems-based approach and inclusive and participatory governance to foster the equitable, resilient and sustainable use of land across local, sub-regional and national scales.

12. The objectives of SLUS are to simultaneously achieve environmental sustainability, economic viability and social justice, jointly leading to social-ecological resilience and transformative change, and ultimately supporting the achievement of the SDGs.

13. The SLUS approach applies and builds on the familiar concepts of sustainable land management (SLM),<sup>3</sup> integrated landscape management (ILM),<sup>4</sup> and integrated land use planning (ILUP).<sup>5</sup> The SLUS framework elevates the social component and deepens consideration of social-ecological systems. It aims to empower communities through inclusive participation in multi-stakeholder partnerships to adaptively plan and manage land.

14. The SLUS approach integrates land resources, land uses and participants, resulting in greater collective contributions to sustainability than can be obtained from isolated interventions and policies.

15. The SLUS approach provides additional value to existing approaches through: (i) moving beyond site-level practices to applicability across locations, land uses and policy environments; (ii) the adaptive capacity for upward and downward scaling; and (iii) support from multiple stakeholders.

16. The SLUS approach supports Parties in achieving and maintaining LDN in three ways. Firstly, it ensures consideration of the impacts of land use and management decisions at each location on other parts of the landscape and encourages analysis of the impacts of decisions

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<sup>3</sup> Sustainable land management is the use of land resources, including soils, water, animals and plants, to produce goods to meet changing human needs while simultaneously ensuring the long-term productive potential of these resources and the maintenance of their environmental functions.

<sup>4</sup> Integrated landscape management (ILM) refers to long-term collaboration among different groups of stakeholders to achieve the multiple objectives required from the landscape. Five key features – all of which facilitate participatory development processes – characterize ILM: (i) shared or agreed upon management objectives that encompass multiple landscape benefits; (ii) field practices that are designed to contribute to multiple objectives; (iii) management of ecological, social and economic interactions for the realization of positive synergies, and the mitigation of negative trade-offs; (iv) collaborative, community engaged planning, management and monitoring processes; and (v) the re-configuration of markets and public policies to achieve diverse landscape objectives.

<sup>5</sup> Integrated land use planning (ILUP) is defined as land use planning that seeks to balance the economic, social and cultural opportunities provided by land with the need to maintain and enhance ecosystem services offered by land-based natural capital. It also aims to blend or coordinate management strategies and implementation requirements across multiple sectors and jurisdictions. ILUP is an umbrella term that includes more specific approaches such as – but not limited to – territorial planning and spatial planning.

at multiple scales. Secondly, it requires that resilience be taken into account when evaluating alternative solutions, ensuring the development of resilient land use systems. Thirdly, it integrates participatory governance, ensuring buy-in across the community and at all levels of government, contributing to the long-term sustainability of enabling policies and interventions.

17. The SLUS approach supports Parties in achieving multiple SDGs because it takes a systems perspective, integrating consideration of all facets of land, with respect to ecosystem health and human well-being, into land use planning and land management.

## **B. Key objectives and elements**

18. The SPI technical report explores the key objectives of SLUS, i.e. environmental sustainability, economic viability and social justice, as illustrated in the annex to this report. Environmental sustainability is a product of measures that maintain and enhance ecosystem functions, conserve biodiversity and provide ecosystem services. Economic viability is a characteristic emerging from productivity enhancement and market generation, amongst others. Social justice results from the diverse interlinkages between effective governance, capacity-building, co-learning and knowledge sharing.

19. With respect to environmental sustainability, the SLUS approach focuses on managing ecosystem processes and functions at landscape scale for the long-term delivery of integrated bundles of ecosystem goods and services, applying SLM and low-impact agriculture, and protecting sense-of-place and sacred natural sites.

20. SLUS enhance economic viability by strengthening local and cross-scale value chains, and by adopting a land system view that links actors within a specific land use system context characterized by joint spatial and institutional regulations. SLUS will also strengthen diversification, circular growth and rural employment, decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, and help sustainably produce local food.

21. Social justice is fundamental to SLUS. They emphasize the importance of inclusivity, acknowledging individual achievements through collective and inclusive – gender, intergenerational – participation and empowerment. Overall, this enhanced social capacity improves livelihood development. The SLUS approach helps upgrade local food assistance and water access programmes to larger-scale food and water security, respectively. SLUS leverages the co-generation of accountable institutions and joint investment in institutional capacity, and targets inclusive growth and tenure security.

22. See table 1 for a review of the literature that helped identify the key characteristics of SLUS.

## **C. Implementation**

23. Table 1 aligns SLUS objectives with corresponding elements and proposed measures for monitoring implementation of SLUS and gauging its impacts. While some measures proposed in the table could be described as indicators, the broader term “measures” captures a wider scope of assessment. The systematic integration of objective criteria, elements and measures can help guide SLUS implementation across diverse environmental, social and policy contexts.

24. Success in the planning and implementation of SLUS requires two fundamental approaches: social-ecological systems and participatory governance. The social-ecological systems approach applies systems thinking to landscape management, e.g. employing the principles and practices of agroecology, the circular bioeconomy and resilient value chains. Participatory governance applies multistakeholder approaches by leveraging their knowledge, skills, and perspectives. The aim is responsive, inclusive and effective multi-scale governance systems, coordination through national, regional and local administrative levels, and integrated policies for land use systems that address multiple objectives through coordinated incentives and measures.

Table 1  
**Objectives, elements and proposed measures of sustainable land use system (SLUS) implementation**

<i>Objectives</i>	<i>SLUS elements</i>	<i>Proposed measures of SLUS implementation*</i>
Environmental sustainability	Soil health	Soil carbon, as an indicator of soil organic matter
	Nutrient cycling	Fraction of land area to which sustainable land management practices are applied Fraction of land managed according to land potential Fraction of land area in a declining or improving condition Change in crop productivity and commodity-based incomes
	Biodiversity conservation and ecosystem integrity	Development and implementation of land management plans incorporating measures to reduce biodiversity loss Fraction of land area, of each land type, under effective conservation measures Land cover change Connectivity and condition of remnant vegetation areas
	Carbon sequestration and storage	Change in carbon stocks in vegetation and soil
Economic viability	Water security (supply, quality, access)	Development and implementation of land management plans incorporating measures to reduce overharvesting and restore and conserve water resources Fraction of area of dryland where water harvesting techniques are applied Amount of freshwater withdrawal Water use efficiency of crops
	Inclusive and innovative financing	Scope and duration of relevant economic incentives Proportion of landholders with access to suitable finance. Access to payments for ecosystem services, debt-for-nature swaps, green bonds
	Resilient value chains	Number and diversity of suppliers and markets Fraction of production lost through food loss and waste Implementation of measures to enhance transparency and accountability, ensure compliance with labour standards and equitably share value across supply chains Implementation of risk management strategies and contingency plans
	Income diversification	Value accrued through access to new or alternative markets Access of households to multiple stable income sources
	Enabling technology and innovation	Adoption of smart farming technologies Access to weather and climate data to inform farming decisions Use of digital platforms for land management and planning

<i>Objectives</i>	<i>SLUS elements</i>	<i>Proposed measures of SLUS implementation*</i>
Social justice	Multistakeholder engagement	Degree and scope of stakeholder engagement and input in land use planning and land management Frequency and impact of collaborative decision-making Functionality of participatory governance frameworks, such as community advisory boards
	Diverse knowledge systems	Measures to facilitate adaptive management informed by all relevant knowledge sources including monitoring Availability and scope of fora and platforms for sharing and documenting local and Indigenous knowledge, and integrating that knowledge into land management strategies
	Land tenure security	Legal protection of ownership or use rights Accessible mechanisms for dispute resolution Incidence of conflicts related to land tenure Transparent land governance and strong accountability systems Percentage of women with secure land tenure, including access to land-related resources and services
	Rights-based approaches	Existence and enforcement of robust legal and policy frameworks that protect and promote human rights, address discrimination, promote equality and empower individuals and communities.
	Equitable livelihoods	Access to diverse economic opportunities Equal opportunity for all to lead productive, dignified, and sustainable lives

\*Qualitative or quantitative measurement.

25. The report provides a practical step-by-step guide to the application of the SLUS approach, which is summarized in table 2, and identifies resources and tools to support the development and achievement of SLUS.

Table 2

**Stepwise guide to the implementation of sustainable land use systems (SLUS)**

<p><b>Step 1: Define the social-ecological context</b></p> <p>Identify and characterize the geographic boundaries and multiple functions of a landscape, and document the key biophysical, social, cultural and economic features, including human activities and practices that shape the landscape.</p>
<p><b>Step 2: Empower key stakeholders in landscape management and monitoring</b></p> <p>Establish a transdisciplinary task force by engaging key stakeholders to oversee and coordinate SLUS planning and implementation.</p>
<p><b>Step 3: Co-conduct land use system analysis</b></p> <p>Involve key stakeholders in developing a comprehensive description of the social-ecological system, including its current state (land degradation neutrality (LDN) baseline), trends (land condition) and vulnerabilities (adaptive capacity and social-ecological resilience of the system to cope with uncertainty).</p>
<p><b>Step 4: Identify collectively transformative options to develop SLUS</b></p> <p>Using participatory processes, generate and evaluate options for SLUS interventions considering locations best suited to land use change required to achieve key objectives of SLUS.</p>
<p><b>Step 5: Joint land management planning to develop adaptive land uses to support SLUS</b></p> <p>Incorporate all knowledge systems, particularly local and Indigenous knowledge, use scenario approaches to explore alternative pathways, and suitable comprehensive sets of indicators (considering global and local LDN and Sustainable Development Goal indicators) to maintain, adapt or transform the system to meet the defined goals and move towards desired future states in the face of climate change.</p>

**Step 6: Jointly implement land management plans**

Launch the implementation plan to achieve planned SLUS, critically review and, if needed, redefine pathways if trigger points are reached.

**Step 7: Implement iterative monitoring, evaluation and learning**

Monitor indicators, evaluate and assess outcomes and the effectiveness of interventions targeting environmental protection, social justice and economic viability.

**D. Scaling sustainable land use systems**

26. The SPI identified the following key mechanisms through which the SLUS approach achieves its key objectives:

(a) SLUS increase a landscape's capacity to enhance and maintain the provision of ecosystem goods and services by improving policy and economic structures, multi-stakeholder participation and the co-generation and application of relevant, scale-appropriate and up-to-date knowledge;

(b) SLUS enhance ecosystem goods and services through processes and functions supporting soil, vegetation, water and their interactions, as well as the economic outcomes of productivity, cultural connection and social cohesion; and

(c) SLUS reduce vulnerabilities to system volatility and shocks through increased resilience to environmental change, reducing economic, social and environmental threats, and through knowledge to manage and predict change.

27. The effectiveness of SLUS in achieving these outcomes is influenced by the individual, community and institutional capacity to adapt the implementation of SLUS to the local context. It also depends on successful integration across ecosystems, sectors, administrative levels, institutions and policies. Integration of SLUS requires effective land governance at landscape, national, local and household scales. Effective governance is also required in the management of resources such as soil and land condition data. Policy integration in land use requires coordination across sectors, and vertically through global, national, regional, local and community administrative levels.

28. A policy mapping approach can illuminate policy gaps and overlap across scales to aid in the effective prioritization of efforts to integrate the SLUS approach.

29. SLUS upgrading will depend upon the number of countries with specific SLUS activity and intervention programmes, the number of ecosystems, commodities or locations to which the SLUS approach is applied, and national or sub-national planning capacity for SLUS implementation.

**E. Achieving land degradation neutrality and the Sustainable Development Goals**

30. The SLUS approach is particularly relevant to efforts to achieve LDN, and to many other SDGs. Addressing land degradation and achieving multiple SDGs requires integrated strategies and collaboration between governments, communities and stakeholders. Incorporating ecosystem thinking into planning processes is crucial for achieving integrated and sustainable outcomes. Linking ecosystem services and water security offers new opportunities for integration. The SLUS approach can enhance the alignment of LDN, ILUP and SLM, leveraging the opportunities provided by the SDGs for holistic and synergistic planning.

31. By promoting SLM practices that enhance plant growth and soil organic matter, such as agroforestry, sustainable nutrient management and water harvesting, SLUS mitigate land degradation while enhancing ecosystem services and biodiversity conservation. These practices support SDG 2 (Zero hunger) through resilient food production systems, SDG 15 (Life on land) by conserving biodiversity and ecosystem functions, and SDG 13 (Climate



action) by sequestering carbon. Further, SLUS can also regulate water flow and quality (SDG 6: Clean water and sanitation) through the protection of wetlands, forests and other natural ecosystems. The use of environmentally sustainable, socially responsible and economically viable farming practices can contribute to SDG 2 (Zero hunger), SDG 12 (Responsible consumption and production) and SDG 13 (Climate action).

32. SLUS support multiple land uses and manage trade-offs to enhance biodiversity, food security, water quality and climate resilience. By promoting sustainable practices like SLM and integrated water resources management, SLUS help balance competing needs and achieve multiple SDGs, particularly LDN. Identifying and quantifying trade-offs and synergies can help minimize negative impacts and maximize positive outcomes. By integrating different land uses and coordinating actions across sectors, SLUS can help identify win-win solutions that maximize the benefits for all stakeholders involved, particularly when integrating local ecological knowledge and traditional practices.

33. An actionable approach to SLUS requires a concrete target (i.e. a “pull”) and an operational framework (i.e. a “push”). LDN provides the concrete target to focus the goals of SLUS, and the LDN conceptual framework, principles and evidence-based guidance provide the operational scaffold. Bridging them are the coordinated and systematically applied practices, interventions, measurable and reportable outcomes, monitoring and adaptive responses of SLUS implementation. With this approach, SLUS can both advance LDN, and explain the success in achieving LDN.

34. Integrating the SLUS approach into ongoing land management processes addresses methodological, governance and policy integration challenges critical for achieving the SDGs. This includes advancing sustainability measurement frameworks, overcoming governance obstacles that impede effective policy implementation, and promoting policy coherence across environmental, economic and social domains.

35. The SLUS approach strategically assesses land potential and limitations to guide decisions that enhance long-term productivity and resilience. In regions where land competition is intense, SLUS integrates ecological, social and economic assessments to allocate land resources efficiently. This approach prioritizes areas for conservation, agriculture, and development based on precise land suitability evaluations, effectively managing competition for land and fostering sustainable development.

## **F. Enabling factors and challenges to overcome**

36. Through the assessment of national reports, survey results and interviews, the SPI identified common perceptions among Parties of what would be necessary to enable the SLUS approach to managing land, and certain challenges that must be overcome. Chief among these was the need for clear policies and regulations aligned with national development strategies and National Action Plans. Financial security and support from the government for SLUS-related efforts are also perceived to be particularly crucial to the success of SLUS.

37. Community and stakeholder engagement – especially involving government institutions, civil society, the private sector and the academic community – was viewed as essential to the success of SLUS, particularly in integrated land use planning processes. Strong leadership of government institutions was also considered essential to implement the SLUS approach.

38. Coordination in the implementation of the Rio conventions is needed to put the SLUS concept into practice at national and local levels and better implement efforts to achieve LDN.

39. Parties responding to the survey that provided country-level inputs, which were considered in the development of the SPI report on SLUS, viewed financial support as essential. In particular, those interviewed point to a need for funding to increase the technical capacity of countries to implement SLUS and to develop national indicators and science-based methods to gauge its effectiveness.

40. Parties also cited the need for education, training and research to integrate and strengthen SLUS-related programmes and practices, including bilateral and multilateral cooperation to support the implementation and effectiveness of the approach. Demonstration pilot projects are viewed as particularly useful for understanding the contextual applicability of SLUS and for developing operational tools combining scientific methods with the land management activities and goals of farmers. Those interviewed noted that skills must be acquired to manage desertification, drought and land and forest restoration while GIS mapping skills are needed to facilitate periodic evaluations of the state of the environment and support the efficient interpretation of SDG 15 indicators. A better understanding of these issues will facilitate the design of context-relevant projects and programmes to address the LDN targets.

41. Parties also viewed information and tools for SLUS as essential. Better data and monitoring tools are considered necessary to observe land degradation, and climate and human vulnerability at all levels, and to improve our understanding of the social-ecological context of land degradation and systematic approaches – such as SLUS – to addressing it.

42. Parties also noted that limited capacity with respect to land administration was a significant challenge in many countries. Almost half of respondents considered the capacity for vertical coordination in LDN planning and implementation processes at the national level as yet to be fully established.

43. Another major challenge is the diverging values of different types of land users who are often competing for the same land resources. SLUS confronts the reality of conflicting stakeholder interests. Multifunctional landscapes are used and shaped by a range of different stakeholders. The high number of diverging values, interests or demands across these landscapes can lead to conflicts which affect sustainability goals. Understanding these diverging values can be difficult; while many studies operate at a landscape scale, the lack of commonality in the research approaches means that it is often difficult to undertake effective comparisons between studies or to compare findings. These difficulties are compounded by the challenges in measuring human well-being: the relationship between multifunctional landscapes and well-being has mostly been studied using ecosystem services as a linkage.

44. A number of critical information gaps need to be filled for the successful implementation of SLUS, including: (i) access to local knowledge; (ii) understanding and experience in employing a systems approach to managing multiple land use and management practices across space and time, which is necessary to operationalize the implementation of SLUS; (iii) a comparative assessment of SLM, LDN and SDG initiatives and incentives that may be pursued; (iv) further elaboration of the role of sustainable value chains in SLUS, including sustainability performance across the entire value chain; (v) linking the circular (bio)economy to SLUS; and (vi) ensuring equitability and inclusivity.

### **III. Conclusions and recommendations**

**45. The SPI technical report provides science-based evidence on SLUS and their potential to address desertification/land degradation and drought while also contributing to the achievement of multiple United Nations goals and targets, taking into account environmental, economic and sociocultural conditions.**

#### **A. Conclusion 1 on sustainable land use systems and achieving land degradation neutrality**

**46. The SLUS approach provides policymakers at the national level and landholders and communal land users at the local level with a comprehensive and integrated (action) framework for co-adaptive land use planning with which to implement SLUS, supplementing existing approaches to achieve LDN by enabling co-design, facilitating inclusive stakeholder participation, promoting long-term systems thinking, and guiding the monitoring and iterative evaluation of land use decisions.**

**B. Conclusion 2 on sustainable land use systems for maintaining land degradation neutrality**

47. Environmentally, economically and socially sustainable land use systems help ensure that LDN will be maintained.

**C. Conclusion 3 on sustainable land use systems and accelerating the Sustainable Development Goals**

48. The SLUS approach takes a systems perspective, simultaneously considering all facets of land with respect to values and services of the land, ecosystem health and human well-being. The systems-based integration of resources, uses and participants, inherent to the SLUS concept, results in greater collective progress towards sustainability objectives than can be obtained from isolated interventions. The SLUS approach focuses on balancing multiple objectives during planning, and provides a framework to articulate and prioritize needs, manage trade-offs and land competition, and seek synergistic solutions. Therefore, applying the SLUS approach offers a comprehensive strategy to simultaneously deliver multiple SDGs. SLUS particularly support the achievement of SDG 2 (Zero hunger), SDG 15 (Life on land), SDG 6 (Clean water and sanitation), SDG 12 (Responsible consumption and production), and SDG 13 (Climate action).

**D. Conclusion 4 on tailoring sustainable land use systems to each landscape or region**

49. Development of SLUS requires that land use planning and land management are based on both an integral understanding of the sustainable potential of each piece of land, within its landscape context, and the key processes and drivers of the social-ecological system in which the land is situated.

**E. Conclusion 5 on the enabling environment for sustainable land use systems**

50. Success in achieving the environmental, social and economic objectives of SLUS relies on engaging multiple stakeholders in governance and policymaking to ensure the effective development and implementation of SLUS. Therefore, to support SLUS, policies must encourage collaborative governance, local innovation, knowledge sharing and investments in sustainable practices, including through tenure security and participatory inclusive decision-making supporting all legitimate tenure rights holders, including marginalized groups.

51. Parties may wish to consider these conclusions when engaging in consultations on a draft decision to be considered by the COP based on the draft text for negotiations that can be found in document ICCD/COP(16)/CST/10, which, following decision 33/COP.15, contains all draft decisions prepared for Parties for consideration at the 16th session of the Committee on Science and Technology.

Annex

[English Only]

### Objectives and elements of sustainable land use systems

Figure  
Objectives and elements of sustainable land use systems

