



# The Economics of Land Degradation (ELD) Initiative

Economic arguments to combat land degradation

*Soil Leadership Academy*

Mark Schauer, Coordinator  
ELD Secretariat

## Vision

- The Economics of Land Degradation (ELD) Initiative
  - is a global initiative
  - based on an economic study
  - created by a network of partners thinking and working for a joint **vision**:

To transform global understanding of the **economic value of productive land** based on both market and non-market values, and to improve stakeholder **awareness** for socio-economic arguments to improve **sustainable land management**, prevent the loss of natural capital, preserve ecosystem services, combat climate change, and address food, energy and water security.

## Target Groups

### Political Decision Makers

- *Key drivers of policy change* due to their critical role in allocating resources and policy formulation
- Provide decision makers with accurate and suitable information on land degradation to enable them to make informed decisions.

### Scientific Communities

- *Main generators of scientific knowledge*
- Partners from the scientific community are working on providing accessible, total economic valuation methods that enable to assess the benefits of sustainable land management and to value land for all its functions.

### Private Sector

- *Direct or indirect users of land production services*
- Identifying business investment opportunities and incentives linked to the preservation and sustainable management of land services, soil must not be an underperforming asset.

## An inclusive partnership

- ELD calls on **scientists** in different disciplines, economists and **experts** from the world of business for its scientific process
- The ELD initiative engages in cooperation with
  - universities and research institutions,
  - NGOs,
  - international businesses,
  - finance institutions,
  - farmers and agricultural associations,
  - partners from political decision-making processes.

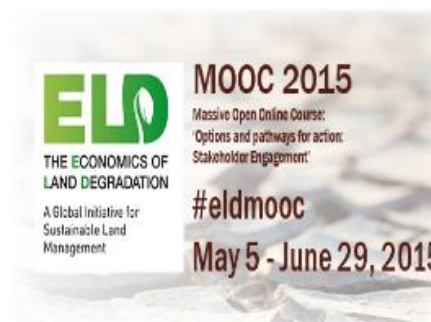
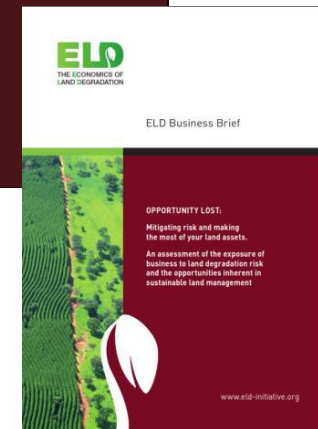
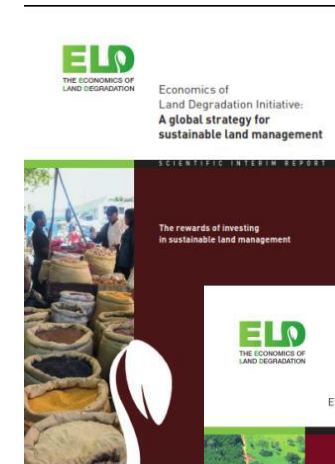


# Case Studies



## Publications / News

- [ELD Movie I + II: The Value of Soil + Soil counts](#)
- [ELD Initiative Interim Report: A global Strategy for sustainable land management](#)
- [ELD Business Brief: Opportunity Lost - Mitigating risk and making the most of your land assets](#)
- [ELD Initiative's Practitioners' Guide](#)
- [ELD Regional report - Africa \(42 countries\)](#)



## ELD Activities

- **Outreach Work – Management of network**
  - new and ongoing cooperation with partners and initiatives
  - establishing regional knowledge hubs
  - Development of awareness raising tools
  - commissioning of case studies, publications, social media, etc.
  
- **Capacity Building**
  - National and regional workshops with political decision makers (stakeholders from the public sector), focusing on Ministries of Planning, Development, etc.
  - Stakeholder Consultations (Philippines, Haiti, Dominican Republic,..)
  - Online Courses and Massive Open Online Courses MOOC
  - Cooperation with UNCCDs Soil Leadership Academy
  - Establishing university curricula

## ELD – Offers for Solutions

- Reliable data and economic arguments at global, national and local level for better decision making
- Demonstrating the value of fertile soil and the benefits of sustainable land management practices
- Actor specific policy advice, capacity building activities and communication strategy



- choose between options the one that benefits most to society as a whole (e.g. Development vs Conservation)
- set “fairer” compensation levels and reduce social unrest (redistribution from winners to losers)
- Well informed risk assessment strategies
- assess further opportunities for development and set up new markets