

**Cordula Epple**

Senior Programme Officer  
Climate Change and Biodiversity  
UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre

I would like to suggest the following points for your consideration in response to the consultation on the LDN Fund's Environmental and Social Standards:

- It would be helpful if the Standards could include a requirement to aim for compatibility of project activities with national strategies, plans and programmes related to sustainable land management (e.g. National Action Programmes under UNCCD, National Adaptation Plans under UNFCCC, National REDD+ Strategies and/or Action Plans, National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, etc.), as well as with relevant standards or safeguards adopted at the national level (e.g. national interpretation of the UNFCCC's Cancun Safeguards for REDD+). Such a requirement would greatly reduce the risk of duplicating or even undermining existing efforts, and could also help to ensure that projects are appropriate to the national situation.
- Some guidance should be provided for the assessment of project impacts, and project proponents should be encouraged to assess the long-term viability of interventions, taking into account climate and socio-economic scenarios. They should also be encouraged to consider possible indirect impacts through displacement of land use and rebound effects (increasing profitability of land use leading to intensification and increased conversion pressure), or off-site impacts e.g. those resulting from water abstraction. In many cases it may be possible to use existing information for the assessment, and those implementing risk and impact assessments should be encouraged to make use of documents that have already been developed at the national level as part of climate change adaptation policies, REDD+ policies, etc.