



Measures to achieve national LDN targets

KINGDOM OF LESOTHO



August 2017



1. Introduction

Like in many countries of the developing world, population increase, infrastructure development and the impacts of climate change started their downwards effects on land capital of Lesotho far ahead of the processes of careful planning for sustainability of the resource. The situation translated into a rapid deterioration of land capacity, leading to poor crop and animal yields. Interventions came over the years and went leaving no recovery of the situation.

It is now generally accepted by many stakeholders that the analysis of the problem has not been up-to-scratch. There was no data collection for the analysis and the work was done by various actors, all working in silos. On the basis of this critic, one agrees that the Land Degradation Neutrality – Target Setting Programme (LDN –TSP) has a great potential of bringing about the required change. First of all, it is based on data analysis (baseline, trends and drivers). Secondly, it requires that stakeholders work together in a coordinated manner to ensure that all necessary steps are considered in achieving land degradation neutrality. In particular, the involvement of multi-stakeholders creates awareness among all sections of the society and ensures that the society moves forward together.

Collaborative work alone cannot suffice. In accordance with LDN procedures we also need to scan our priorities, change our attitudes and our policies to create an enabling environment for LDN success. We need to anticipate the future likely causes of degradation and we put in place measures and policies that prevent them. We need to put in place transformative projects aimed at land recovery. The end result of the exercise is expected to be the increase in the capacity of the land capital, leading to greater food security and healthier ecosystems. To this end, the government and people of Lesotho are committed to achieving LDN.

2. Brief narrative on the motivations for the government to commit to LDN

Climate change is already taking a great toll on food security. This is a global phenomenon that requires cooperation of the whole world. However, Lesotho's land degradation has its root causes and its solution in Lesotho. LDN offers a golden opportunity for the government to take advantage by pulling its resources together to find long-lasting solutions to the diminished land capital. Accruing advantages are numerous, including better food security, improvement of water resources, enhancement of biodiversity and healthier ecosystems. All these can translate directly into improved livelihoods for the people of Lesotho.

3. Brief summary of the national LDN baseline and current status of land degradation, based on the LDN indicators

Analysis of the “default tier 1 data” indicates that land cover did not change significantly between 2000 and 2010. In all land use classes, there is land showing “early signs of decline” and there is also land showing “declining” productivity. There are also examples of land with “increasing” productivity that can be copied and multiplied. The Soil Organic Carbon is generally low for all land use classes.

4. Brief summary of the LDN targets set and associated measures identified, with proposed timeline

National targets

The Lesotho target is to achieve LDN by 2030 as compared to the 2015 baseline and an improvement of 5% of the land. The improvement is expected mainly in the Lowlands and Foothills of Lesotho where majority of the land is used for cropping. The target is to also improve Soil Organic Carbon in all land classes.

Specific targets to avoid minimize and reverse land degradation

- Improve productivity and SOC stocks by 1% in all land classes by 2030 as compared to 2015
- Rehabilitate 600,000 hectares of degraded land to functionality by 2030
- Convert 135,600 ha of bush land back to rangeland by 2030 as compared to 2015
- Halt the conversion of forests and wetlands to other land cover classes by 2022
- Increase forest cover by 61,325 ha by 2030 as compared to 2015
- Reduce the rate of soil erosion and sealing (conversion to artificial land cover) by 20% by 2030 as compared to 2015

5. Outline of policy measures to integrate LDN into selected national priorities, such as sustainable development and poverty reduction

- Integrate LDN into sectoral policies to ensure that the LDN hierarchy (avoid, reduce, reverse) is owned by all sectors
- Strengthen the decentralisation processes to ensure active participation of local communities in the management of their land
- Restore grazing fees as an effective means of range management
- Develop and update legal instruments to facilitate law enforcement

- Promote alternative forms of energy for supply to rural areas to avert overdependence on forest wood
- Promote agroforestry to create more diverse, productive, ecologically sound, and sustainable land-use systems.

6. Call to other stakeholders, including the private sector, to contribute to the country efforts to achieve LDN

The Government of the Kingdom of Lesotho has taken a momentous step in committing to LDN. Achievement of LDN requires all sections of society to work together for the betterment of the land. The work requires alignment of sectoral policies to cope with the modern challenges as well as to ensure coherence across among them. There is need for every member of the society to join hands in the transformation of their land capital. Lesotho government makes this clarion call to all Basotho to participate in the scoping, design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the transformative programmes and projects that have a great chance of bringing back our beloved country.

Endorse by



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